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College files motion to dismiss Mead lawsuit, considers education efforts

ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury College filed a motion to dimiss the lawsuit by former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas '72, contesting the removal of the name "Mead" from the chapel.

By LILY JONES & RACHEL LU
Senior News Editor & Editor at Large

Middlebury filed a 37-page motion on Friday, April 28 to dismiss the lawsuit brought by former Vermont Governor and executive in residence at the college, Jim Douglas '72, contesting the removal of the name "Mead" from the chapel.

Since Douglas filed the lawsuit on March 24 of this year, the suit has sparked debate across the Middlebury community about "cancel culture" and the history of eugenics in Vermont. The decision that the chapel would no longer bear the name of John A. Mead was enacted on Sept. 27, 2021, due to Mead's role in advocating and promoting eugenics policies in Vermont in the early twentieth century.

Motion to Dismiss

The motion filed by the college urges the court to dismiss Douglas' lawsuit, claiming both a lack of evidence that the contract agreed to between Mead and the college was conditional on the use of his name in perpetuity, and a lack of legal standing from the plaintiff.

The motion was filed in Burlington by Middlebury's counsel Justin B. Barnard of law firm Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew.

Jared Carter, assistant professor of law at Vermont Law School, spoke with The Campus about the key arguments in the motion and what it might mean for the future of Douglas' lawsuit.

According to Carter, the plaintiff will have 30 days to respond, and then the defendant may be given an opportunity to reply to that response. "Courts don't move very quickly, we are certainly talking months at least before we get a decision on this," Carter said.

Though the debate around this case has sparked conversations surrounding the history of eugenics and 'cancel culture,' legally, it comes down to contract law, according to Carter. "Really what this case is is a contract dispute. It's gussied up as something bigger and broader than that because of the world we are in, but really this is a contract dispute," he added.

The case hinges on whether or not the college's initial agreement with Mead obligates them to keep his name attached to the chapel in perpetuity as a necessary condition of the financial investment.

"In similar cases where donors or heirs have challenged what schools want to do, I think plaintiffs have an uphill battle. So I think Middlebury's arguments are fairly strong in terms of whether a contract existed or not and if Middlebury could change the name," Carter said.

One comparable case Carter referenced is Hastings College Conservation Committee v. State of California, a 2022 decision by the San Francisco Superior Court in which the court allowed the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, formerly called the Hastings College of Law, to change their name despite protest from Hastings' descendants. In the ruling on this case, Carter explained, it was established that a contract does not necessarily restrict how one deals with that property forever. "There's a presumption that we don't encumber property forever because times change, and I think that's an important principle that the college brings up," Carter said.

There is a second argument that the college makes in its motion to dismiss — even if the contract did have a condition to keep the name forever, former Gov. Douglas does not have legal standing to bring the case to court.

"To get into the courthouse door you need to have some injury. [Douglas] in his capacity as a Special Administrator to the [Mead] Estate doesn't have legal standing [according to the college's argument]," Carter added.

Carter said that he sees this case as unique in the way that the plaintiff presented their arguments. "The vast majority

Continued on Page 2

Marine biologist, author and policy expert Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson to give 2023 commencement address

By LILY JONES
Senior News Editor

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, a marine biologist, author and conservation policy expert will deliver the 2023 Middlebury commencement address.

Johnson is the co-founder of the nonprofit think tank Urban Ocean Lab, co-editor of the bestselling climate anthology "All We Can Save," co-author of the "Blue New Deal," and co-creator of the podcast "How to Save a Planet."

Originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., Johnson earned a BA from Harvard University and a PhD from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in marine biology. In 2021, she was named one of the Time 100 Next List of "emerging leaders who are shaping the future."

"Ayana [Johnson] personifies the climate movement at its best — a first-rate scientist who also understands that, by itself, science can't solve our crisis," said Bill McKibben, Middlebury's Schumann Distinguished Scholar, in an announcement from the Office of the President.

"She's employed every possible tool—writing, speaking, building institutions, helping organize political power—in order to make a resounding difference. If ever a person exemplified why the liberal arts — all of them — matter, it's Ayana [Johnson]," McKibben said.

Johnson will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the commencement ceremony.

Middlebury will also award honorary degrees to five other individuals at commencement. Mark Bamuthi Joseph is a spoken-word poet, dancer, playwright and actor, whose opera We Shall Not Be Moved," was named one of 2017's "Best Classical Music Performances" by The New York Times.

Nancy Gaden is senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Boston Medical Center (BMC), described as a "remarkable leader shaping healthcare in Massachusetts," by The Commonwealth Institute.

The other three honorees — Thomas M. Wells, Carol Vitz Wells and Jordyn Wells — are cofounders of the Wells Mountain Initiative (WMI), a foundation focused on social change through education and community building based in Bristol, Vt.

Commencement will take place on May 28 at 10 a.m on the quad downhill from the chapel.

MUHS Principal resigns after investigation of allegedly fabricated interviews

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Senior Local Editor

Middlebury Union High School Principal Justin Campbell sent a brief letter to the school community on Jan. 23 announcing his resignation from the job. "After much contemplation, many conversations with family and some deep introspection, I have decided to resign my position," Campbell's letter said. "It has been a deep honor to be part of the MUHS community and I will cherish the memories I've made."

While Campbell's resignation came as a shock to many people in the high school community, two former coaches at the school, Jill and Pat Dunn, were not surprised. According to reporting from Seven Days, two hours before Campbell's announcement, Jill Dunn received an email from the school district's lawyer, Pietro Lynn. Jill had alleged in December 2022 that Campbell fabricated interviews in his investigation of a post-prom party held at the Dunns' house. Lynn's email reported that the district's investigation into Campbell's conduct found that her claims were substantiated.

The beginnings of the post-prom party investigation that led to Campbell's resignation date back to the summer of 2021. According to Jill, however, the seeds for this conflict were planted years earlier, when she and her husband first became employees of the school district as high school coaches.

As parents of children who went through the Addison Central School District, Jill was hired as the girls' varsity tennis coach in 2017 and Pat as the assistant varsity basketball coach in 2019.

Jill told The Campus that, shortly after being hired as a coach, she began having conflicts with the district Athletic Director, Sean Farrell. One such incident in the spring of 2019 involved Jill finding out the boys' and girls' tennis coaches were paid what she described as comparable to the salaries of middle school coaches, rather than the standard salary for high school coaches in the district.

According to an application Jill later filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Farrell raised the tennis coaches' salaries from $2,659 to $4,343 after she and the boys' tennis coach met with Farrell over the pay discrepancy. Jill's application also alleged that female coaches of other sports at the school, such as downhill skiing, volleyball and field hockey had been "dismissed, ignored, lied, [and] intimidated" by Farrell.

Continued on Page 4

NEWS

College offers new study abroad program in Denmark to incoming first-year students in effort to address over-enrollment, housing issues

By DANIZA TAZABEKOVA

▶ PAGE 3

LOCAL

Food, music, arts festivals — summer events in Addison County

By LOCAL SECTION EDITORS

As the semester winds down and we look ahead to the summer, many Middlebury students will stay in Middlebury...

▶ PAGE 4

OPINIONS

Four years in retrospect: It doesn't end with Commencement

By EDITORIAL BOARD

Junior Year: "All My Friends Are Gone"

By HANNAH SAYRE, MAGGIE REYNOLDS & CHRIS DONOHUE

▶ PAGE 5

ARTS & CULTURE

Nocturne 2023: You are an artist

By EMILY THOMPSON

From the Archives: Middlebury through the headlines

By ABIGAIL CHANG

▶ PAGE 8

SPORTS

Middlebury tennis teams advance in NCAA tournament

By JACK McGUIRE

Men's lacrosse falls short in NESCAC championship, but qualifies for NCAA Tournament

By GAVIN THOMSEN

▶ PAGE 11

SGA announces new endowed fund to expand financial assistance for students

By MANDY BERGHELA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) announced the creation of a new endowed fund called the "SGA Seizing Opportunities Endowed Fund" in conjunction with the Office of Advancement on Friday, April 28. The fund, which has a $3 million endowment goal and is currently at $680,398, will increase funding for the "Seizing Opportunities Fund" (SOF) to expand support for students with resources and opportunities that financial aid does not cover.

Currently, students are able to access the SOF fund through Handshake in order to request financial assistance for purchasing technology, ski clothing and a number of other materials or opportunities. According to the new fund's announcement, the SOF did not have sufficient funding to meet all the needs of students; this disparity inspired the creation of the new endowed fund.

Nikita Rodov '26, a first-year senator, expressed his excitement that the endowed fund was passed unanimously in the SGA because of the opportunities it will provide for future students.

"This fund, I believe, not only provides students with an increased opportunity to embrace the culture at Middlebury, but also to thrive as students," Rodov said.

Middlebury Director of Equity Initiatives Elaine Orozco Hammond will play a role in overseeing opportunity grants by the college. Hammond said she believes that this fund is an important step in leveling the playing field and providing greater access to educational and career opportunities for those who may otherwise be excluded.

"With this monumental action, the SGA demonstrates how current Middlebury students want to support future students by reducing financial barriers to access. It also brings us closer to this institution's goal of students' full participation in opportunities and experiences during their time at Middlebury," Hammond wrote in a statement to The Campus.

Raymond Diaz '23, the current SGA president, explained that there is already a large amount of money in the fund because of pre-existing college fundraising initiatives.

"One of those pillars that Middlebury fundraising campaigns have focused on is access," Diaz said. "So it was really good timing when we were talking about starting this endowment in SGA meetings because the college has already been fundraising for initiatives projects on an institutional scale that are related to access."

Although it helped create this fund, the SGA and Middlebury students will not be responsible for fundraising to fulfill the endowment's goal moving forward.

"The Office of Advancement will be handling any fundraising initiatives, and this does not fall into the confines of students because it is a full time job, and they will be in charge of it going forward in the future," Diaz said.

The SGA will financially support the new fund by contributing a part of its reserves to help meet these goals: 50–75% of the funds that would be returned to the SGA reserves each year will be redirected to this fund until it reaches $4,000,000. The bill establishing this endowment contributed $200,000 from the SGA spring 2023 reserves to start the fund. The SGA plans to have a 5% spending rate for the fund starting in fall 2023.

"For the next 10 years, the SGA will be allocating a portion of its SGA reserves money, which is the money at the end of year that does not get used by any student organization from that student activities fee," Diaz added. "I gave future administrations a recommended amount of money within the bill so that they are not forced to give a certain amount, but also keeping in mind that the goal is that one day no student should have financial barriers in the Middlebury experience."

SGA Directors of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Seif Alyosef '25 and Fanta Diop '25, were also part of the passage of this initiative and expressed strong support for the fund and the opportunities it opens.

"The establishment of the SGA Seizing Opportunities Endowed Fund is a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to make the Middlebury experience accessible to all, and we are proud to be a part of this essential initiative," Alyosef and Diop wrote in a statement to The Campus.

"The reason why endowments get so large is because someone started it a long time ago." Diaz said. "You can't really substitute time, you can't really expedite it and you can't really control it. I am very interested to see where this endowment goes 20 years down the line, when hopefully, it has grown."

COLLEGE FILES MOTION TO DISMISS MEAD LAWSUIT, CONSIDERS EDUCATION EFFORTS

Continued from Page 1

of it is telling this story of the former Governor and his history... the legal contractual arguments are, almost, when you read the complaint, secondary. That's sort of unusual in litigation, but they clearly have a story they want to tell," Carter said.

In Carter's opinion, while there is a high burden of proof to meet to get a case dismissed, the college's arguments are relatively strong.

"I'll point to the UC Hastings case, where colleges have been successful. If I were to call this, I think the college's likelihood of success is bigger than the plaintiff's likelihood of success," Carter said.

The legal counsel of the Mead Estate was informed of the motion to dismiss earlier last week. Douglas said he expected this move by the college, but nevertheless, he was overall disappointed by the tone of the written document.

"[The motion] continues to demonize Governor Mead and to make him more of a devil than a loyal and generous alumnus, which is what he was," Douglas said. "I guess that's the nature of litigation and lawyering, but I confess to having been disappointed when I read the document."

Douglas and the legal counsel of the Estate have thirty days to respond to the motion, and they are currently preparing the reply.

Due to the ongoing litigation, Douglas was unable to comment on the specific details of the motion.

The college is also unable to comment on the specific details of ongoing litigation. "Regarding current litigation, we have outlined our case in the recently filed motion to dismiss. Should this case continue, we are prepared to vigorously defend our position," Julia Ferrante, associate vice president for public affairs, wrote to The Campus.

Education efforts

One month after Douglas filed his lawsuit on April 18, the Office of the President sent an email to the Middlebury community about efforts to consider educational initiatives to provide information about the history of the chapel and the decision by the Board of Trustees to remove the name. The announcement suggested a permanent sign or plaque installation as possible methods of education.

The college removed Mead from the chapel's name in September 2022, but did not begin forming the education committee until February 2023. They will meet again in May to discuss possible efforts. "We have further asked them to consider how to provide an opportunity for public input and to proceed with a spirit of generosity toward history, acknowledging the full dimensions of those who have led and stewarded the College before us," the announcement stated.

The committee is made up of 15 community members from the college, including faculty, administration, alumni, students and a trustee.

According to Hannah Ross, Middlebury general counsel, chief of staff to the President and member of the educational committee, members of the committee are observing confidentiality until they reach final recommendations in order to ensure trust among themselves.

Douglas told The Campus that he is in support of the college's educational initiative for bringing more transparency to the situation, but he believes the efforts are long overdue and should have been carried out prior to the removal of Mead's name from the chapel. In addition to educating students on the history of eugenics in Vermont and the college's involvement with the eugenics movement, Douglas emphasized that the college should also educate students on the fair portrayal of a person's legacy.

"It is important to look at the dominant legacy of an individual, and not cherry pick a particular statement or note that puts them in a bad light. On that basis, any of us could be portrayed less favorably than would be fair," Douglas said. "So I think that's an important lesson too, especially at this time when our society feels so polarized and angry. Really important to put everyone and every statement in context."

In a statement to The Campus, Ferrante wrote that college administrators stand by their decision to remove the Mead name from the Chapel. "Just like our community has evolved over the century since this emblematic building was dedicated, our understanding of the history of this building has evolved. As an educational institution committed to open expression, we continue to explore the complex dimensions of that history — and to teach and learn through it," Ferrante wrote.

Student-led proposal aims to bring culturally diverse food trucks to Middlebury

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Local Editor

For Talia Chang's '26 final project for her gender studies class "White People" with Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Laurie Essig, she and her partners Zoe Rosen '26, Lizzy Guzman '26 and Yaxeny Erazo '26 are proposing that the College bring food trucks with culturally diverse food options to campus to give students more opportunities to experience a wide variety of authentically prepared ethnic food. Chang and her partners are still in the planning process, but they hope to kickstart the project next fall.

Following a Soul Food Sunday dinner hosted by the Black Student Union to celebrate foods from the Black diaspora this past February, Chang interviewed students on their thoughts on Middlebury's dining halls. She found that several students of color expressed displeasure with the ethnic food the dining hall prepares, while white students were mostly satisfied.

The problem, according to Chang's interviews with students, lies in the quality of the ethnic food that the dining halls serve. "They adjust the flavors to appeal to a white palette. By doing that, it's no longer really ethnic food. They're essentially ruining it, and it's a form of disrespect," Chang said. She clarified that she does not believe the dining hall workers are directly responsible for the shortcomings, as they may not be familiar with authentic ethnic foods.

Chang and her partners created a survey accessible by the go link go/foodtrucks. As of April 27, 99.5% of the 182 respondents were in support of bringing food trucks vending "homemade international cuisines" to Middlebury.

The project's main goal is to allow students of color to feel more at home through food, especially since ethnic food options in the town of Middlebury can be limited and expensive. "We live in a space where there's tons of students of color coming to the middle of Vermont, but the town hasn't adjusted to accommodate our needs. There's not even an Asian grocery store in Middlebury, so that's where the idea came from," Chang said.

Dan Detora, executive director of food service operations, said that most of the food trucks the college has funded in recent years have been to promote outdoor, socially distanced eating during the Covid-19 pandemic. The majority of these trucks serve American food, such as pizza and barbecue food. With a few exceptions like Mr. Ding-A-Ling Ice Cream, most food trucks that come to campus now are for special events and are paid for by the organization hosting the event, according to Detora.

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on campus????
OUR PROPOSAL: RECIEVE A PUNCH CARD TO CLAIM MEALS FROM MIDDLEBURY-FUNDED FOOD TRUCKS TO PROMOTE AUTHENTIC ETHNIC FOOD DIVERSITY AT MIDDLEBURY AND SUPPORT VT POC OWNED BUSINESSES
Let us know at :
go/foodtrucks/

Courtesy of Talia Chang

A poster for the food truck initiative.

To ensure the project was on their radar, Chang contacted incoming Student Government Association (SGA) President Abed Abbas '24 and Vice President Tara Masri '25 a few days after their election in April. Planning is difficult at the moment due to upcoming SGA board elections and the revaluation of SGA budgets, Chang said, but she anticipates working with the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) in the fall to acquire funding.

Abbas is supportive of Chang's ideas and believes that more diverse cuisine can be brought to campus by adjusting what kinds of food regular catered events offer. "When getting food for organizations, maybe just focus not solely on pizza — let's try to get more culturally diverse food to see how people react to that," he said.

Chang's group is proposing that the food trucks come from Burlington, where she said there is a large presence of authentic culturally diverse food for cheaper prices than food in the town of Middlebury. Some small businesses they would like to see brought to campus include Harmony's Kitchen, which serves Afro-Fusion soul food, Café Mamajuana for its Dominican cuisine and La Catrina for Mexican cuisine.

Chang hopes that MCAB or the College will pay for the food trucks to come to Middlebury, and then students will pay for their own food. Eighty-seven percent of 174 respondents from Chang and her group's survey reported that they would be willing to spend money on food trucks.

Chang said her vision is that they can start by bringing two food trucks every month and then increase the project's capacity over time. "I don't think it's enough for them to just come at special events," she said. "I think in order to create a withstanding sense of diverse community on campus, we need to have a common presence of more cultural food options."

Detora supports bringing more diverse food options to campus, but expressed skepticism that the food trucks will want to make the trip to Middlebury. "Burlington has more people, and they run special events every week up there — they are fairly expensive and won't come to campus unless they know there's a guaranteed sale," he said.

However, Detora shared that dining services hopes to utilize the college-owned food truck to bring Chick-N-Bap, a Korean food franchise found on several college campuses, to Middlebury in the fall. The food truck is currently undergoing repair after breaking due to a mouse infestation in the indoor location where it was stored this winter, but Detora anticipates that it will be fixed shortly and ready for operation. Detora said that the Chick-N-Bap food truck would ideally be open 5–7 nights a week if they can acquire enough staff.

"We'd love to get some diversity, and we think this could work well for the layout of our truck," Detora said.

College offers new study abroad program in Denmark to incoming first-year students in effort to address over-enrollment, housing issues

By DANIZA TAZABEKOVA
Journalism Fellow

Courtesy of DIS Copenhagen Semester

Nyhavn, one of the most iconic sights in Copenhagen.

Middlebury is offering a one-time opportunity for incoming first-year students to spend their first semester in Copenhagen at the DIS: Study Abroad in Scandinavia program. Thirty-two members of the class of 2027 will take a total of four courses with two Middlebury professors designed to immerse them in intellectual and cultural adventures that focus on global education.

The students will travel together to Copenhagen on Aug. 18 and return home on Dec. 15 of this year. According to Michelle McCauley, interim executive vice president and provost, it is impossible for Middlebury to run orientation during the winter term, so the cohort will either take J-Term classes virtually or pursue off-campus internships — a change from the longstanding policy requiring first-years to stay on campus for their first J-Term — until they arrive at campus for February orientation.

Middlebury professors Barbara Hofer and Timothy Case will teach first-year seminars "The Cultural Psychology of Happiness" and "The Climate Crisis & the Photography of Place," respectively. Students will also take three other classes taught by DIS faculty, including the core course "Cultural Diversity and Integration," along with "Danish Language and Culture" and an elective.

Since the first-year seminar is students' first contact with the rigorous academic standards they will experience at Middlebury, Case designed his course to prepare students for a Middlebury education by teaching them how to be global citizens.

"In that vein, the course will engage students in the planet's climate crisis through learning about the science, researching impacts and mitigations in Copenhagen, and field studies and photo shoots in and around the city," Case wrote in an email to The Campus. "They will return from the experience intellectually and emotionally broadened, enriched by a close-knit peer group with a deeply felt shared experience, and embodied with an enhanced sense of their place in the global community."

Hofer expressed similar goals of keeping these first-year students connected to Middlebury and working to build their time management and research skills. She said she looks forward to the unique advantages offered by teaching the course in Copenhagen.

"My first-year seminar is a course I've considered offering as a winter term course at Middlebury (and might do so in the future), and I think that getting to teach it to students living in one of the happiest cultures in the world is ideal," Hofer wrote in an email to The Campus. "Positive psychology courses are often critiqued as too self-focused, so adding a cultural lens will enable us to look at what kinds of societal affordances and constraints affect human flourishing."

Students in this program will pay the normal Middlebury tuition, room, board and activity fee, which in total will cost $41,940. This includes housing, a monthly meal stipend, books, airfare and educational opportunities outside of class. The students' Middlebury financial aid package will transfer to the DIS program — this is different from the DIS program for upperclassmen to which financial aid does not transfer.

"Unlike when students normally study abroad on externally sponsored programs, Middlebury is allowing students to carry both their federal and institutional financial aid," McCauley wrote in an email to The Campus.

Students attending the program will also receive a $500 per month food stipend and $1,500 to cover airfare. Regular DIS students receive about $600 for the semester in a food stipend and no airfare coverage.

According to Dean of International Programs and Professor of Psychology Carlos Vélez, the new program offers a meaningful and rich experience to students that has the potential to help them later on in their studies.

"Students can start at Middlebury with a global perspective, a close community of peers, and valuable academic skills that will enrich the rest of the Middlebury experience," Vélez said. "More and more colleges are offering first-year study abroad programs and have seen a lot of success with them; these students often study abroad again later in their college careers, and many go on to study languages and international studies."

The program was primarily created to help manage over-enrollment, which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. There are approximately 2,550 students on campus this semester, and the administration expects this number to increase in the fall.

"Our commitment to offering flexibility to our students as they navigated the pandemic has resulted in an unexpectedly modest number of students (about 420) who will graduate in May, and, relatedly, a large group of students (more than 200, instead of the usual 100) who are expected to graduate in February 2024," McCauley wrote. "Although the number of students who are studying abroad has returned to pre-pandemic levels, students are disproportionately choosing to be off campus in the spring."

The college offered a $2,000 travel reimbursement for anyone willing to switch their spring study abroad semester to the fall.

"We know that it will be a challenge to identify on-campus housing for all of the students who have expressed intentions to be on campus. For this reason, we have developed a couple of new study abroad options," McCauley wrote.

The administration partnered with DIS: Study Abroad in Scandinavia because DIS is experienced in running first-year and other customized programs and was able to organize this program in a relatively short period of time, according to Vélez. DIS also regularly welcomes visiting faculty, making them suitable hosts for this program's professors.

Alexander Perez Jr. '27 is interested in the Denmark program because he has always dreamed of exploring other countries. "On April 6th, I received an email from Middlebury introducing me to a new opportunity, which was the chance to spend my first semester in Copenhagen," Perez wrote in an email to The Campus. "It is a great opportunity for students to gain such a memorable experience, to see how people live in a different way of their own, and to make great friends and interact with others along the way."

During J-Term, Perez said he will be expanding on what he learned in Copenhagen.

"Instead of practicing mindful photography in Denmark and doing an investigation of how climate change affects the area of Copenhagen, it will be focused on my home state of Virginia," Perez wrote.

The program was approved by McCauley in consultation with David Provost, executive vice president for finance and administration.

"The College's Curriculum Committee reviewed the two first year seminar courses," McCauley wrote. "The electives the students will be taking were reviewed and approved for Middlebury credit by the dean of curriculum; they are similar to courses Middlebury students have taken at DIS in the past."

When asked about faculty response to the program, McCauley added it was generally well-received, though the administration did hear that some faculty were surprised.

Professor of Mathematics Mike Olinick said he believes the program is a major educational policy that should have been formally voted on by the faculty.

"Major educational policies are supposed to be decided by the faculty. Approval of new departments, majors, anything that affects the education requirements for our students is under faculty control. It's part of the faculty governance process in most institutions of higher learning," Olinick said.

The Copenhagen program will permit first-year students to do internships during J-Term, an option currently prohibited by Student Handbook policies as adopted by the faculty.

Olinick noted that historically even small changes to educational policy have gone through a faculty vote.

A few hours before the April 7 faculty meeting, faculty received an email informing them that the program was already offered to incoming students, and the details were already on the webpage.

"We were able to discuss it at the faculty meeting, but we couldn't do anything at that point. We were told that a number of the incoming students had already applied to the program," Olinick said. "People had some questions about it. People pointed out some of the problems with it."

Olinick said he believes the college could have solved the over-enrollment and housing issues in other ways, like admitting fewer students next September or opening up the Bread Loaf campus for housing.

"The college spent several millions of dollars weatherizing those [Bread Loaf] buildings so that they could be used throughout the fall term. They did house students up there a couple of years ago. It wasn't a popular option, but it was an option. We have the facilities to do it," Olinick said.

He stated that the appropriate route for approving this program would involve serious consultation with the faculty council, who would have weighed in on what would be the appropriate procedure to adopt this proposal. It could have been introduced at one faculty meeting or voted on at the next meeting, or they could have called an emergency meeting of the faculty. Olinick said the faculty would have likely approved the program as an interim measure had they been given the opportunity to consider it.

"Administration will say they were kind of in an emergency, however, it takes time to set up a program like this," Olinick said. "This was a pretty egregious step by the administration — a serious violation of how we're supposed to do things at the college. There might be a motion to censure the administration at the May faculty meeting."

The Islamic solution to the climate crisis: Consistency, collaboration and conversation

By ELLIE TRINKLE
Contributing Writer

Students and faculty gathered in Bicentennial Hall to listen to authors Ibrahim Abdul-Matin and Rhamis Kent discuss an Islamic solution for climate change on May 3. The event was co-sponsored by Faithfully Sustainable, Muslim Student Association (MSA), Student SGA Environmental Affairs Committee, the Charles P. Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life and the New Perennials Project.

Faithfully Sustainable is a national organization dedicated to bridging the gap between faith and environmental stewardship by allowing young Muslims to participate in conversations about pressing issues. Since the organization's creation in 2020, the climate crisis has been one of its major focuses, so it was very excited to welcome Abdul-Matin and Kent — two prominent leaders in the climate movement — to the first in-person Faithfully Sustainable event at Middlebury since Covid-19 began.

"I knew that I wanted to be involved somehow to be an active participant in climate change," said Kadjahtou Balde, a co-founder of Faithfully Sustainable. "Especially given that I learned a lot about how my faith approached stewardship; what it says about our responsibility as human beings to the planet and to each other. I wanted to explore that curiosity and find how I could be an active participant in this work."

Abdul-Matin is the author of Green Deen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet, a book that examines environmental issues through an Islamic lens and emphasizes the principles that are important in the fight against climate injustice. Abdul-Matin said he hoped that by writing this book, he would facilitate conversations between young people and elders that impact the climate change movement. He wanted anyone from his eight-year old nephew to his 70-year-old aunt to resonate with his words, regardless of whether or not they were Muslim.

"There's no other planets that we can live on, this is what we've got, so no matter what you believe in, we're here together," Abdul-Matin said.

Abdul-Matin emphasized the need to foster a community of people across multiple generations and different religious identities that are all dedicated to collaboratively fighting the climate crisis.

"We need to be in relationship with each other if we're supposed to be in the right relationships with nature, with God and all these other elements," Abdul-Matin said. "We need to be better at communication."

Both speakers also discussed how deeply religious people have made important scientific discoveries because of the unique aspects of their faith.

They described how religion can be a useful tool to both understand the science behind how the climate crisis occurred and strategize ways to combat it.

"If you look at the history of Muslims, as a community they have arguably done the most to open the doors to scientific discovery, and certainly the discoveries that led Europe to coming out of the Dark Age," Kent said. "All the great Muslim scientists, mathematicians, researchers, what have you, are all deeply religious people."

Kent emphasized that the combination of both metaphysical and ethical frameworks produces the most success. Kent described the "ethical fractal" that begins with ethics–the management of the individual–then branches to ecology–the study of the household–and then to economics–the management of the household and then finally to politics–the management of the society.

"If you can't manage yourself, or if you're in a community or group of people that are unable to manage themselves, then therein lies the problem," Kent said.

The ethical fractal can be used as a tool to combat the climate crisis. It all starts with the individual who wants to make change, and then it slowly expands into pressuring the government to make policies that will manage society and manage the climate crisis.

Abdul-Matin and Kent have not only found a way to examine the climate crisis from an Islamic lens, but also to implement key values of their religion within the movement. They shared that through consistency, collaboration and conversation, real change can be made to combat climate change.

Abdul-Matin recalled waking up in the middle of the night and watching his father pray. This memory highlighted to him the importance of consistency via setting examples. In terms of the climate change movement, Abdul-Matin stressed that if one person can be consistent with their actions, like his father was with his faith, it will help to motivate others to do the same.

"It's a very real thing that you actually have to put practice and rhythm into. The way we learn is not just by saying things, and the way young people learn is not just by hearing things, they learn by what they see people do," Abdul-Matin said. "The way we treat the planet is a reflection of the way we treat ourselves. How we are and how we treat everything around us is how we see ourselves."

Abdul-Matin and Kent provided wisdom about how to best commit to the climate change movement both within the Middlebury community and beyond — jump into conversations with fellow students and those much older, get involved in any way possible and welcome all the different perspectives throughout the world.

FOOD, MUSIC, ARTS FESTIVALS — SUMMER EVENTS IN ADDISON COUNTY

By EDITORS
Local Section Editors

As the semester winds down and we look ahead to the summer, many Middlebury students will stay in Middlebury to do research, pursue internships, work on campus, or maybe just bask in the sweet Vermont sun. Pooling together our collective summer experiences in Vermont and some online research, here is a round-up of events in Addison County (and beyond) to look forward to this upcoming summer.

Middlebury Farmers' Market: Every Saturday outdoors in the VFW parking lot on Exchange Street beginning May 6. Vendors rotate from week to week, but frequent attendees include Dee's Delight, Frog Hollow Farm, Good Companion Bakery, 802 Craft Cannabis and Twin Maple Sugar Works.

Lincoln Peak and Town Hall Theater World & Wine: On May 27th at the Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven, Lincoln Peak and the Town Hall Theater will kick off the summer World & Wine music series in which they invite artists from around the world to perform outdoor concerts. The band Mal Maïz––consisting of Maiz "Brujo" Vargas Sandoval, a Costa Rican multi-instrumentalist, and his Afro-Latino Orchestra––will headline the first event of the series.

Midd Summer Market series: Every Thursday between June 1 and Aug. 31 at Triangle Park in downtown Middlebury. Sponsored by the Better Middlebury Partnership the market runs between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. with prepared food, live music, crafts and produce.

Ben & Jerry's Concerts on the Green: Between June 11 and Sept. 16 on the grounds of the Shelburne Museum. Highlights of this summer's lineup include Rainbow Kitten Surprise on June 11, Big Thief on July 17 and Mt. Joy on Aug. 8.

Foodaroo Food, Music and Street Performer Festival: June 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Marble Works. Presented by Middlebury UndergrounD (MUD), the 8th annual festival will include a lineup of Addison/Chittenden County food vendors, a King Arthur Flour Baking competition and Vermont musicians, street performers, dancers. In previous years, vendors in attendance included Aqua ViTea Kombucha, Crooked Ladle Catering and Sister's of Anarchy Ice Cream.

Middlebury Festival on the Green: July 9-15 on the village green in downtown Middlebury. Supported by a mix of community donations and volunteers, the 2023 lineup features about 15 musical ensembles that will appeal to children and adults alike. Highlights on the lineup for the 44th annual event include Durham County Poets, Yacouba Sissoko Trio and No Strings Marionette Company.

BMP Downtown Block Party: On Thursday, August 4th, the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP) will block off a section of Main Street in downtown Middlebury to make space for food, games, live music, and over 40 vendors. The festivities will begin at 3 p.m.

Addison County Fair and Field Days: Aug. 8-12 at the fairgrounds in Vergennes. Vermont's largest Agricultural Fair, the event typically includes a variety of horse, sheep, goat, poultry, etc., shows, along with a demolition derby, carnival rides and food vendors.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival: Aug. 23-27 at a number of locations in Middlebury, including the Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theater, Twilight Hall, Dana Auditorium and Swift House Inn Tent. The 9th year of the event this summer will feature over 125 films and panels, parties for attendees. Students can buy discounted tickets ahead of time or a ticket for a single screening at the door.

Vergennes Day: Saturday, Aug. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. all around downtown Vergennes – the Little City. Put on by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, the event in past years has featured a fire department pancake breakfast; 5K, 10K, 15K Road Races and Fun Run; vendors; bandstand music; horse and wagon rides; and the Lions Club Chicken BBQ.

Mad River Valley Craft Fair: Sept. 2-3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Kenyon's Field off of Route 100 in Waitsfield. The 52nd anniversary of the fair will feature fine arts & crafts, live music, a food court and raffle.

Middlebury Marquis Theatre Trivia: Every Thursday between 7 and 9 p.m. at the theater café in downtown Middlebury. Teams of up to 6 can play for free to win prizes while enjoying southwestern food from the cinema café.

Notte Salsa Night: Every Thursday between 8 p.m. and 12 a.m, Two Brothers Tavern will open their sister bar Notte for a night of dancing to a mix of traditional and contemporary Hispanic music styles, such as salsa, bachata and reggaeton.

William Reed/The Middlebury Campus
A snap from Addison County Fair and Field Days at sunset.

MUHS PRINCIPAL RESIGNS AFTER INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGEDLY FABRICATED INTERVIEWS

Continued from Page 1

Over the next year, Jill said she had additional disagreements with Farrell about discrepancies over profits from a school bake sale and when he denied her requests to join an athletic leadership group at the school. These interactions are also laid out in Jill's June 2022 EEOC complaint, in which she charged that she had been subject to sexism and employment discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Farrell declined to comment specifically on his relationship with Jill and Pat Dunn, stating that the school district's press statement on the matter speaks for him. The district's statement does not refer directly to Jill's allegations against Farrell; it instead discusses the prom party incident, which led to both Jill and Pat Dunn's firing and Principal Campbell's resignation.

In late August 2021, Campbell reached out to the Dunns, asking to meet about a post-prom party the couple hosted for their son and his friends in June of that year. "A few community members have informed me that, according to them, you hosted an underage party where drinking occurred," Campbell wrote in his email, which Jill shared with The Campus.

The Dunns met with Campbell shortly after the email correspondence and described their version of the party to him — grilling food, playing ping pong and using the backyard pool. The couple said they never provided party attendees with alcoholic beverages or witnessed alcohol being consumed. Jill told him it was possible that the kids had been drinking at the party or earlier at the prom, but neither she nor her husband served them alcohol.

Following this meeting in early September, Jill said she did not hear anything further from Campbell until she came to speak with him in November on a different matter — a complaint related to Farrell and the athletic leadership group from which she had been denied entry. In another email from Campbell which Jill shared with The Campus where the two corresponded about a meeting time, Campbell wrote, "you will also recall that we met in September to discuss the prom gathering you hosted last spring. I would like to fill you in on my findings."

Pat accompanied his wife to this November meeting with Campbell. It was there that Campbell told the couple they were both being fired from their coaching positions at the school, citing interviews with three students who attended their party and claiming that the Dunns were aware of underage drinking taking place at the event.

"We left there blindsided," Jill told The Campus.

At the time of the November meeting with Campbell, Jill said, she began suspecting other motives for her and her husband's firing — specifically something related to her previous run-ins with Farrell. Following up on these suspicions, she asked to see the district's investigatory notes into the party and described her concerns to Superintendent Peter Burrows.

When nothing came of her request to get more information about the district's investigation, Jill filed the formal complaint to the EEOC for sex-based employment discrimination and what she considered to be the absence of due process when she and her husband were fired. The EEOC dismissed Jill's application four months later in October 2022, writing in its response, "evidence shows you were dismissed because you hosted a party where minors consumed alcohol in your present [sic], but you did nothing to stop it."

Despite the EEOC closing its investigation, Jill found on the commission's online portal documents the district's lawyer provided with summaries of the interviews Campbell conducted with party attendees. Jill then had her son ask the interviewees about the statements they gave Campbell describing alcohol consumption at the Dunns' party. According to Jill, all three students told Jill's son they were never interviewed about the matter by Campbell.

In response to these findings, Jill hired a private investigator to get statements from the three students about the district investigation. Two of the students told the private investigator they never met with Campbell to discuss the party; the third described meeting with Campbell briefly about an unrelated topic, according to the private investigator's report.

Farrell disputed the private investigator's claim that none of the students sat down with him or Campbell to talk about the post-prom party. "[I] did approach [the student] asking if she would be willing to meet with me and Mr. Campbell to discuss her experience at the party and she agreed. Mr. Campbell was in my office during the entire interview process," Farrell wrote to The Campus.

Jill reached out to Burrows with the private investigator's findings, and he responded that the district "consider[s] the matter concluded." Two more emails by Jill to the school board in early January 2023 led to the district looking into her allegations. Nine days after Jill's second email to the board, the district told Jill and Pat that their allegations about the fabricated interviews had been affirmed. Campbell resigned that same day.

"The School Board and the Superintendent were alarmed by the findings of the private investigator," the district wrote in their press statement. "Once it was determined that the investigation into the Dunn student party was improper, the Board directed that both investigations, the one into allegations raised by Ms. Dunn regarding discrimination and unprofessional conduct and the one having to do with the party, be reopened and that the matters should be investigated again."

Lynn, the district's attorney, told Seven Days that once Dunn's allegations were substantiated, Burrows and the board were "prepared to take appropriate disciplinary action," but Campbell resigned before that could happen.

Despite the focus on Campbell's resignation and role in the post-prom party situation, Jill said she believes the blame is being placed on the wrong person — "we firmly believe that Farrell made him [Campbell] the face of this," she said. Jill does not have any concrete evidence of Farrell's role in the situation but said she has these suspicions because of her previous altercations with Farrell and the fact that the tip about the party came from what Campbell called an "anonymous source" multiple months after the party actually took place.

Campbell became the principal of Middlebury Union High School in the fall of 2020 after spending roughly eight years as the principal at Hanover High School in New Hampshire.

According to Ben Wagner '25, who attended Hanover High School while Campbell was principal, Campbell was well-liked by the school community in Hanover. "I never really interacted with him beyond his by-name greeting as he held open the door every morning, but he seemed pretty nice and reasonable. When I saw him at the [Middlebury] Snowbowl over the winter, he still remembered who I was and gave me a big 'ol handshake," Wagner wrote in a text to The Campus.

Farrell declined to comment further on Jill's allegations of his connection to the post-prom party situation.

In late January, following Campbell's resignation, the district reopened its investigation into the party and Jill's allegations of discrimination and unprofessional conduct against Farrell. The Dunns did not participate in the investigation, however, as Jill said they have been unhappy with how the district has handled this whole situation.

The district concluded again in the second investigation that the Dunns were aware of drinking at the party. The second investigation did not include any of the evidence of fabricated interviews from the private investigator, as the Dunns did not participate in the investigation. The investigation did not substantiate the couples' claims of discrimination, so the firings from their coaching positions stood.

The district wrote in the press statement that they cannot share what, if any, personnel actions were taken due to the improper investigation. Burrows and the district did confirm to The Addison Independent, however, that they did not make any decisions based on fear of litigation, nor have they paid any money to the Dunns.

"The Board, the Superintendent and the District are committed to honesty and integrity, enforcement of the District's policies and transparency, where possible," the press statement said. "We are confident that we have fulfilled that commitment in connection with the Dunn matters."

Superintendent Burrows will also depart from the district at the end of the school year to pursue a job as the superintendent of the Milton, Mass. public schools. Former Assistant Superintendent Caitlin Steele was named the new Middlebury Union High School principal in late March.

Maggie Reynolds/The Middlebury Campus
A recent scandal shakes up the Middlebury Union High School community.

Four years in retrospect: It doesn't end with commencement

Editorial Board

This editorial represents the opinion of The Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

For this week's editorial, the graduating seniors of the Editorial Board reflected on how Middlebury has changed –– for better and worse –– since they enrolled in fall 2019. Our non-seniors offered their perspectives on how these changes have shaped their college experience thus far. Of course, the college has developed in ways that were inevitable due to the pandemic's disruption of both Middlebury and the world at large. As we finish up a year without pandemic restrictions, we must reflect on how students' priorities have changed and the college has failed to keep up with the changing times.

We'll give you the good news first. Since we started four years ago, the college has become more diverse. Not only in terms of admitting more BIPOC, first-generation and low-income students, but also by celebrating the diversity of culture on campus through robust programming such as a variety of events in honor of Black History Month. Likewise, there are now more cultural dinners, and the Anderson Freeman Resource Center (AFC) — Middlebury's intercultural center — has expanded its programming. But while the college has made progress in improving diversity in admissions, this is only successful if we provide the resources to support those students when they get to Middlebury.

When the class of 2023 applied, the college required standardized test scores. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Middlebury has become test-optional, a policy we hope sticks around. Doing well on a standardized test requires resources that aren't equally available to all applicants. Continuing to make reporting test scores optional provides for a more equitable admissions process.

Additionally, since 2019, we've noticed a change in the types of assignments given by professors. To the relief of many students, there has been increased academic flexibility, with fewer scheduled in-person exams and more take-home finals, and professors have become more understanding with deadlines. Zoom has also become a convenient option for office hours or when you can't be physically present in class. However, Zoom's widespread usage has led some professors to expect that you should still attend class virtually when you are sick, which prevents students from resting and regaining their health.

We've also noticed a shift in party culture at Middlebury recently. Prior to the pandemic, students could wander around Atwater on a weekend night and almost always find a party that would let them in — this is no longer socially acceptable or encouraged. This might be because Covid-19 restrictions encouraged students to form tight groups with their close contacts, making the social scene more intentional. The college also eliminated super bloc housing, which may have contributed to a decline in large open parties. A group of friends that live together voluntarily are more likely to host events open to many students at a place like KDR than a house full of people who randomly end up living together.

Now for the bad things. Since the onset of the pandemic, we've noticed what feels like a significant decrease in students' engagement on campus, specifically in extracurriculars. We lost so much social time during the pandemic that it is natural to want to make up for lost time. We were also forced to modify or put many of our activities and hobbies on hold, and we may not yet be back to fully engaging with these important aspects of college life. While we understand why students are less engaged with school organizations, it is unfortunate that the student body has become somewhat disconnected from stimulating facets of student life such as student government, volunteer organizations and performing arts groups. These groups were once integral to student life here, but in recent years board members have observed them struggling to recruit members or sustain long term engagement.

Take the recent SGA elections. During the current seniors' first year, these elections attracted more engagement. The race was highly competitive, and presidential candidates put a great deal of effort into their campaigns, from creating informational websites to holding "office hours" for students to ask questions about their platforms. These days, many students can't name the candidates running for SGA positions. We hope that as we continue to adjust to life after pandemic restrictions, students will bring new life to the organizations and projects that are essential to building community and affecting change here.

We have also observed that the housing system has deteriorated on the whole. Though the old Commons system had its downsides, there has not been an administrative effort to replace it with widespread community-building infrastructure within the housing system. At the same time, deans are working with a larger number of students — one dean is now responsible for the entire junior and senior classes.

Furthermore, Covid-19 and over-enrollment have made it more difficult for students to get the housing they desire. Many of us were placed randomly in Ross suites our first year, but those living arrangements are now hard to come by for upperclassmen. Another sign of this trend is that the college still plans to house students at the Inn on the Green next fall, and increasing numbers of students are moving off-campus for the fear that the summer housing draw will not work out in their favor. Students moving off campus has increased tensions with town residents and undermined the close residential nature of our community.

Off-campus living also affects staffing: When students live off campus, they take already scarce housing options away from faculty and staff who may have otherwise lived there. When affordable housing is so hard to come by, potential employees are more inclined to take their talents elsewhere.

The most severe change since our matriculation in 2019 may be understaffing at the college. It has become normal for the dining halls to use compostable plates on the weekends because they don't have enough dishwashers — that rarely, if ever, occurred when we first started at Middlebury. Wages that used to essentially match the inflation rate have fallen far behind it following a temporary across the board wage freeze during the pandemic and again with wage compression brought about by the skill matrix system. Understaffing on campus affects the way students view the community, and the consistent destruction of campus spaces suggests that our student body thinks they are the only group that occupies these hills and halls.

This spring, many students have been frustrated by the Grille's limited hours. These shortened hours, however, tie back to understaffing and a difficulty attracting employees to the Grille. In addition to compensation issues, former workers at the Grille have specifically cited as a reason for their departure the trend of disrespectful, drunk students causing chaos in the space after a night out. While the Grille used to be a place for students to congregate and meet new people after a crowded Atwater party, we must acknowledge that its changed role relates to student disrespect of the space, and, in turn, understaffing.

Naturally, we tend to romanticize the past. But what is clear to both our graduating seniors and younger students is that essential pieces of college life — our dedication to Middlebury's organizations, the campus social scene, the places we live and the support for the staff we rely on — are no longer what they once were. We do not say all this to encourage students and administrators to look backwards to how Middlebury used to be. Rather, we need to think about how to move forward and incorporate aspects of previous campus life to discover what Middlebury can look like. While students have some agency to change how we engage with the college, the administration must recognize its responsibility to pay its employees fair, competitive wages and to find a sustainable solution to limited housing. As we look to next fall, we hope our community will take on these challenges — after all, this is our school, and we should all be invested in its future.

A love letter to The Campus, from the executive team

Notes from the desk

Abigail Chang '23, Rain Ji '23 & Tony Sjodin '23 *are members of the Executive Team of The Campus.*

To our memory

After an interest meeting almost four years ago, a Campus editor taped a list of potential new writers to the wall of our office in Hepburn basement. This list has been a reminder for me over the years — at the bottom is my name and email, followed by a brief description of how often I thought I would want to write in fall 2019: "Every other week maybe?"

The question mark is funny to me now — I can no longer remember a time when I had any doubts about contributing to the paper. My time at Middlebury has been defined by The Campus — by Tuesday nights spent editing until 2 a.m., by scrambling to finalize a breaking story on my phone in a Proc booth, by learning from some of the most hard-working, thoughtful and engaged people I have met at this college.

For me, the list on the wall has been a reminder that, in your first weeks at this school, you can't possibly know what choices will define your time here. As much as you might believe you know yourself, you won't be able to predict who you will be by the time you graduate and what communities will matter most to you.

I've thought a lot about what I want to say in my goodbye to this newspaper. I could tell you how proud I am to be a part of this team, which has adapted and grown throughout the onset of and difficult recovery from a global pandemic. I could tell you how much I believe in this newspaper and the power of student journalism, especially in times of conflict and change. I could tell you how much gratitude I feel for the editors who encouraged me and pushed me when I was a new writer — what new insights and enthusiasm you will bring to this paper and the Middlebury community.

My little brother is matriculating here this fall. My advice to him is this: Say yes to things; explore; don't assume you already know who you are or who you're becoming. And write for The Campus. Just kidding — but who knows what could happen if you put your name and email down at an interest meeting this September. You might discover something you love.

Abigail Chang, Editor in Chief

To our year

The past week has been a series of lasts for me, and although the reality that I will pack up my dorm and graduate from Middlebury hasn't fully sunk in yet, I'm already beginning to shed tears over what has filled me with so much joy over the past four years. The Campus isn't just another extracurricular activity — I feel truly at home when I'm in the basement of Hepburn, despite all the strange noises that come from the pipe overhead or the piano-playing in the upstairs lounge.

I will never forget the first time that I cried at The Campus. I will never forget the first layout page I did for sports. I will never forget the first article I turned in. I will never forget all the friends that I made at The Campus. There is magic in creating something together: I'm truly impressed with the level of commitment that the staff members have shown to this publication over the years. I know that no matter where I go or what I do, I will always value the integrity, perseverance and passion that I observed from my colleagues at this newspaper. In that

Thank you to everyone who gave me the opportunity to serve in different capacities over the years: I cannot describe how much I've grown as a student journalist, editor, colleague and leader through my work at The Campus. Thank you for putting faith in someone whose English is not their first language. My obsession with English grammar as a child paid off more than a decade later in a basement in Vermont.

Thank you Tony and Abbie. Over the past year, we've dealt with stressful situations and celebrated victories; we've become a tight-knit team, supporting and uplifting one another every step of the way. Thank you for your exceptional work ethic, creativity and quirkiness. It's been an incredible journey, and I couldn't have asked for better teammates.

Lastly, to everyone who will remain part of this amazing community in the years to come: you're lucky. Never take the time you have for granted: come to the editorial meeting, write that article, start that podcast or contribute whatever you have to this newspaper. It is a privilege to serve a small community and feel the tangible impact that our voices have for staff, students, faculty, administrators and community members.

I'm not yet ready to part ways with The Campus — but I know that the paper is in good hands. Despite my separation anxiety, I am confident that The Campus will continue to be a platform that will serve those in our community in meaningful ways.

Rain Ji, Managing Editor

To our future

I stewed for some time on what I wanted to say as a last farewell to this school, this paper and this basement office that I have called home for the last four years. I settled initially on a message about the value of student journalism — I could dedicate paragraphs to the incredible learning opportunities that arise through the process of reporting a story; I could elaborate on the immense importance of local, community-engaged coverage

After I left the last all-staff meeting of the semester, I had only one thing left to say: I have never been prouder of anything than I am of this year's staff of The Campus. Through years of the Covid-19 pandemic, they edited articles from isolated dorm rooms, met for staff and editorial meetings over Zoom, and adapted constantly to keep our community informed during the most formative years of our lives. Many of our editors started writing for the newspaper as first-years in the midst of the pandemic, showing impressive dedication through a time when it was exceptionally difficult to engage with anything beyond academics. Over the last nine months, this team brought the college and town stories about crises, changes, culture and community. If you have picked up a newspaper or read an article from us even once this year, it is thanks to the unrelenting work of these amazing people.

Most impressive, perhaps, is the level of care that they bring to this paper. From their attentive consideration of the words we use to describe our community, to the support they have shown each other — and me — in difficult times, they brought a compassionate energy that made often sad and draining work feel rewarding.

Every student should join their college newspaper, or at least write one article for it. It will challenge you in ways you could never have imagined. But the opportunity to learn was why I signed up to write an article in my first year — the fun and brilliant people I had the opportunity to learn from are why I stayed for three more.

As I say goodbye to my fellow graduating seniors and hand over the reins of this massive project to a new generation of leaders, I know that the paper I gave my college life to is in good hands. Thank you to the editors who taught me, to Abbie and Rain with whom I shared this year, and to the members of our staff who I have had the honor to work alongside. I am in awe of everything they have accomplished this year, and it will be a privilege to witness what they do next.

Tony Sjodin, Managing Editor

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The Middlebury Campus

Be the Match at Middlebury

Op-Ed

Caroline Haggerty is a player on the Middlebury Field Hockey team and a member of the class of 2024.5.

Last Wednesday, May 3, the Middlebury football and field hockey teams ran a "Be The Match" event on campus. The first time football held the event in 2022, they registered over 500 students and won 'Rookie of the Year,' an award given to the Division 3 school with the most registrations in its first Be the Match Event. This year they joined forces with field hockey in an effort to repeat this success. Be The Match is a vital cause as it helps save the lives of people with life-threatening blood cancer. I chose to volunteer because I found that this organization provides an exceptional opportunity for individuals to make a significant impact on someone's life. I think it is important that this event continues in future years and that athletics teams at Middlebury continue to use their platforms to promote this type of positive change.

Be The Match is a national organization that works to provide blood cancer patients with diagnoses such as leukemia or lymphoma with fully matched donors for a blood stem cell or bone marrow transplant. Over 70% of patients don't have a donor in their own family, so they depend on a donation to save their lives. The organization has facilitated over 120,000 transplants in the past 30 years, but there are still patients who need matches, and growing the registry of potential donors is vital. We held a donor registry drive in Axinn, where we cheek-swabbed participants to add them to the registry. After being added, participants may be contacted and asked to voluntarily donate if they are a match for someone in need of a transplant.

> Be the Match is not only a great cause, but also an incredibly unique opportunity to be able to single-handedly save someone's life.

Courtesy of Caroline Haggerty

The logo of "Be the Match."

Be the Match is not only a great cause, but also an incredibly unique opportunity to be able to single-handedly save someone's life. Choosing to participate and be added to the registry is an act of generosity and bravery as the transplant process is not necessarily easy — but you have the chance to be someone's only match for a transplant, their only hope for a cure. I chose to be added to the registry because I found the opportunity to potentially save someone's life so special. In today's world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the problems our society faces. From climate change to social inequality, it can be easy to feel like my individual actions don't matter in the grand scheme of things. However, when we take the time to engage in community service and support important causes, we can see firsthand the impact that even a small gesture can have.

Because of the importance of the organization, we worked in earnest to try to encourage students to register by advertising inside our heavily trafficked dining halls to spread the word. Players on both the field hockey and football teams firmly believe in using our teams' platforms to create a tangible, positive impact within our community. By being part of varsity sports teams, we have access to a wide audience and can leverage our visibility to inspire others to take action. Our hope is that we can have a ripple effect, inspiring others to get involved and contribute to positive change in their own way.

Despite the rainy weather, the event was once again a success and we were able to add just under 200 donors to the registry this year. We hope to continue the event in years to come, and for our varsity teams, Middlebury organizations, and individuals to continue to have positive impacts on the community, both locally and beyond.

SPIRALING THROUGH SEASONS AT THE KNOLL

Op-Ed

Aria Bowden is a member of the class of 2023.

Middlebury College's student-founded garden, the Knoll, was first plowed on an October day in 2002 after months of planning. The garden officially began growing produce in the spring of 2003. As we mark the celebration of its twentieth anniversary, I wonder what the Knoll's twenty years can teach us about learning and academia, food justice, climate resiliency, community building and radical care. What can it teach us about soil health, flowers and herbs, pollinators and fireflies, and all the love that goes into growing just one ripe tomato? How can we trace the many ways it has enabled students to take root in Addison County, meet local growers and learn the makeup of local food systems?

As one of the last few departing seniors who experienced Middlebury pre-pandemic, it's been both saddening and joyful to watch this campus evolve, to acknowledge the way that things change and to hope for abundant, nourishing growth to spring upwards from the beds that have been planted. The Campus Editorial Board wisely wrote on the opportunity presented by a post-pandemic campus for the intentional crafting of community and traditions. As we mark the celebration of the Knoll's twentieth anniversary, I trust that gathering the community to honor the garden's evolution can provide space for memory keeping and sharing, a gift for a campus still reeling from the after-effects of the pandemic and the fragmentation of knowledge, community and traditions.

The Knoll began in the spring of 2002 when a group of dedicated students led by Jean Hamilton '04.5 and Bennett Konesni '04.5 wanted to create a community garden on campus. The location was selected by students through GIS spatial analysis, and the administration was generous enough to offer the plot. Since then, it has become a vital part of student life, providing a space for folks to embody and act on questions of climate justice, resiliency, education and food access. At the Knoll, students are able to root in place and learn to care for a garden, for one another and for this Vermont community that encompasses both the people and the land.

In its first sprouting seasons, the Knoll was held together by a labor of love from students and Jay Leshinsky, the first Garden Educator. In 2003, students cleared the land, planted rows and built the garden shed. Since, it has grown to involve over 300 volunteers annually and grew 140 different varieties of perennials and crops in 2022. Hundreds of student interns and volunteers have kept it growing through the seasons, learning from each other, the land and Leshinsky, as well as previous Food and Garden Educator Sophia Esser Calvi '03.5. The Knoll has housed honeybees and chickens, grown countless pounds of produce, flowers, and herbs, nurtured lab experiments and projects, and been a space for both gathering and refuge.

Under the guidance of current Associate Director of the Knoll Megan Brakeley '06, the garden has evolved to be a classroom where students can engage with questions of food justice, seek to repair relationships with the land and learn to center anti-oppression work in our food systems. According to its mission statement, the Knoll "explores food as a medium to cultivate well-being in people, places, and the planet," which is apparent in its many partnerships. The Knoll has partnered with the non-profit Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE) for many seasons, growing 3,000 lbs of produce for them to distribute in 2021. It also hosts third-graders from Cornwall Elementary School weekly for five weeks every fall so they can learn about soil ecology and gardening. In 2020, the Knoll formed a partnership with the Middlebury Language School of Abenaki, which visits each summer for an Abenaki language revitalization program. In 2020 and 2021, the Knoll grew about 300 pounds of produce for the Nulhegan Food Security Project, an Abenaki organization furthering food accessibility and justice for its members. The Knoll evidently is an access point for students to engage with Vermont organizations committed to food justice and community resilience.

Courtesy of Susannah Gebhart '06

Bennett Konesni leading a group of students to the knoll to see the future site for the garden. Submitted to the upcoming book compilation.

Courtesy of Dan Kane '09

Drone shot of the Knoll ca. 2007. Submitted to the upcoming book compilation.

It's staggering to trace just how much the Knoll has grown over its twenty years. What can its story offer each of us, whether we are an intern, volunteer or occasional visitor? I think at the very least, it shows that with love and collaboration, we each can build something that lasts.

In honor of these 20 wonderful years of growth, we're excited to formally announce our plans to celebrate this anniversary. In partnership with New Perennials, the Knoll is publishing a community-sourced book of memories, photos, art and poetry submitted by alumni, students, faculty, staff and Middlebury community members. It will be printed this summer and is a tangible record of time spent, vegetables grown and eaten, friendships made, structures built and the joy of learning.

In addition to the book, we hope to have three official celebrations so that as many people as possible can celebrate with us and honor the time and intention it takes for a garden to grow each year through the seasons. On Monday May 15, the last day of classes, there will be a Tea Party at the Knoll, featuring delicious snacks made by Dolci and a tea made with herbs harvested from the Knoll and blended in collaboration with Stone Leaf Teahouse. All are welcome to come to the Knoll to partake in this celebration. Other events are also being planned for the summer over reunion weekend and during our Harvest Festival in October.

As a student, it's rather overwhelming to think about what twenty years means. I'm barely a few seasons older than the Knoll. So much has happened, but in some ways, it feels as though the garden is just coming into bloom. The Knoll was built by students and is for students, and those in the garden today build off of the labor and love of those who came before. It's up to each of us, I think, to remember. To mark the passage of time, to learn from those who have come before, to honor the landscape for all it gives us and to choose what comes next. How can we collectively honor the roots that have grown these twenty years while still looking toward all the flowers that have yet to blossom?

JUNIOR YEAR: "ALL MY FRIENDS ARE GONE"

Op-Ed

Hannah Sayre *is a member of the class of 2024.5 and an Opinions Editor for The Campus.* ***Maggie Reynolds*** *is a member of the class of 2024 and the Senior Local Editor for The Campus.* ***Chris Donohue*** *is a member of the class of 2024.*

According to the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, there are 306 students abroad this spring, most of whom are juniors. By the time a class at Middlebury graduates, nearly 60% of its members will have studied abroad.

Studying abroad is the norm. In a LinkedIn post from a couple of weeks ago, Middlebury wrote, "It's not usually a question of if you will study abroad during your time as a #Middlebury student. The question is where you'll choose to live and learn for a semester." Many Middlebury students who study a language wish to take advantage of the college's unique schools abroad. Many others seek an exciting extended vacation from rural Vermont. Others still go abroad because they see it as the thing to do and what their friends are doing.

During our sophomore year, each of our friends planned semesters abroad in Germany, France, Denmark and Chile, to name a few. After careful deliberation, and for various reasons, the three of us — who did not know each other well then — chose not to go abroad. This decision was difficult for all of us because we knew that, in doing so, we were voluntarily walking into a spring semester with the majority of our friends gone. We had to accept that spring 2023 was going to be a socially unusual semester.

At the risk of being cheesy, we offer the following list of positives and lessons garnered through our experiences as non-study-abroad juniors. There are many valid reasons not to study abroad, whether that be needing to complete major requirements, not wanting to give up the comforts of campus, wishing to continue relationships and activities at Middlebury, financial concerns, not wanting to be far away from home or a simple lack of interest. We hope to demonstrate to underclassmen hesitant about remaining at Middlebury while friends go abroad next year that staying is not so bad. The experience of remaining behind can even prove to be every bit as rewarding as a study abroad experience.

> We hope to demonstrate to underclassmen hesitant about remaining at Middlebury while friends go abroad next year that staying is not so bad.

A sense of independence and autonomy over one's schedule

Chris: At the beginning of the semester, I was confronted with the reality that I wouldn't have as many activities planned for me by my close friends. The semester challenged me to be intentional when it came to planning activities with people, which also meant taking the initiative to do things solo.

> The experience of remaining behind can even prove to be every bit as rewarding as a study abroad experience.

Maggie: Not always having plans to eat meals with friends means being able to choose when you go to the dining hall and when you do other things. I felt less pressure to find a party to go to every weekend and was more flexible about how to fill my free days.

Feeling inspired to try new activities and develop new interests

Chris: With extra time during this semester's weekends, I embarked on a marathon training plan for a race in late May. The long runs I've completed during the weekends would have been nearly impossible to fit into a regular semester. I enjoyed exploring Middlebury's natural environment both on my own and with my new running buddies.

Maggie: With the spring being my off-season from the swim team, I discovered the joy of exercising with friends. From going on runs to biking to aqua jogging, I came to love sweating it out while spending time with others.

Realizing that getting meals alone is really "not that deep"

Chris: Getting meals by myself was really hard at first. I once thought it was shameful to get meals—particularly dinners—alone. This semester forced me to unlearn this unhealthy mindset. I became more comfortable eating by myself, and then when I did have meals with others, I enjoyed them even more.

Without one's core group of friends around, naturally being forced to meet new people and get closer to acquaintances

Hannah: People who I may have gotten occasional meals with in previous semesters became the basis of my social life this semester. When my core group of friends is here, my time is spread thin across many people; without them here, I have more time and naturally make a greater effort to become closer to people I didn't used to know well. I'm glad I can carry new friendships into future semesters.

Maggie: I learned to be more intentional about making meal plans or weekend plans ahead of time, and this has allowed me to reflect on the activities and ways of socializing that fulfill me the most. I have also been able to savor sweet moments with some of my friends and teammates who are graduating soon.

Realizing that things never turn out as bad as they seem in your head

Maggie: Ahead of this semester, I was nervous that I would lack opportunities for social interaction and wouldn't be able to fill my time. It was valuable for me, though, to practice being more independent. I came to learn that I will always be able to find new ways to spend my time when the old ways are no longer an option.

Remembering that abroad has its hard moments, too

Chris: While the transition to finding a new normal here at Middlebury wasn't easy, I found comfort in the fact that those studying abroad were going through stressful transitions, too. It was important for me to eventually realize that social media posts weren't necessarily showcasing the discomfort often felt by those studying abroad.

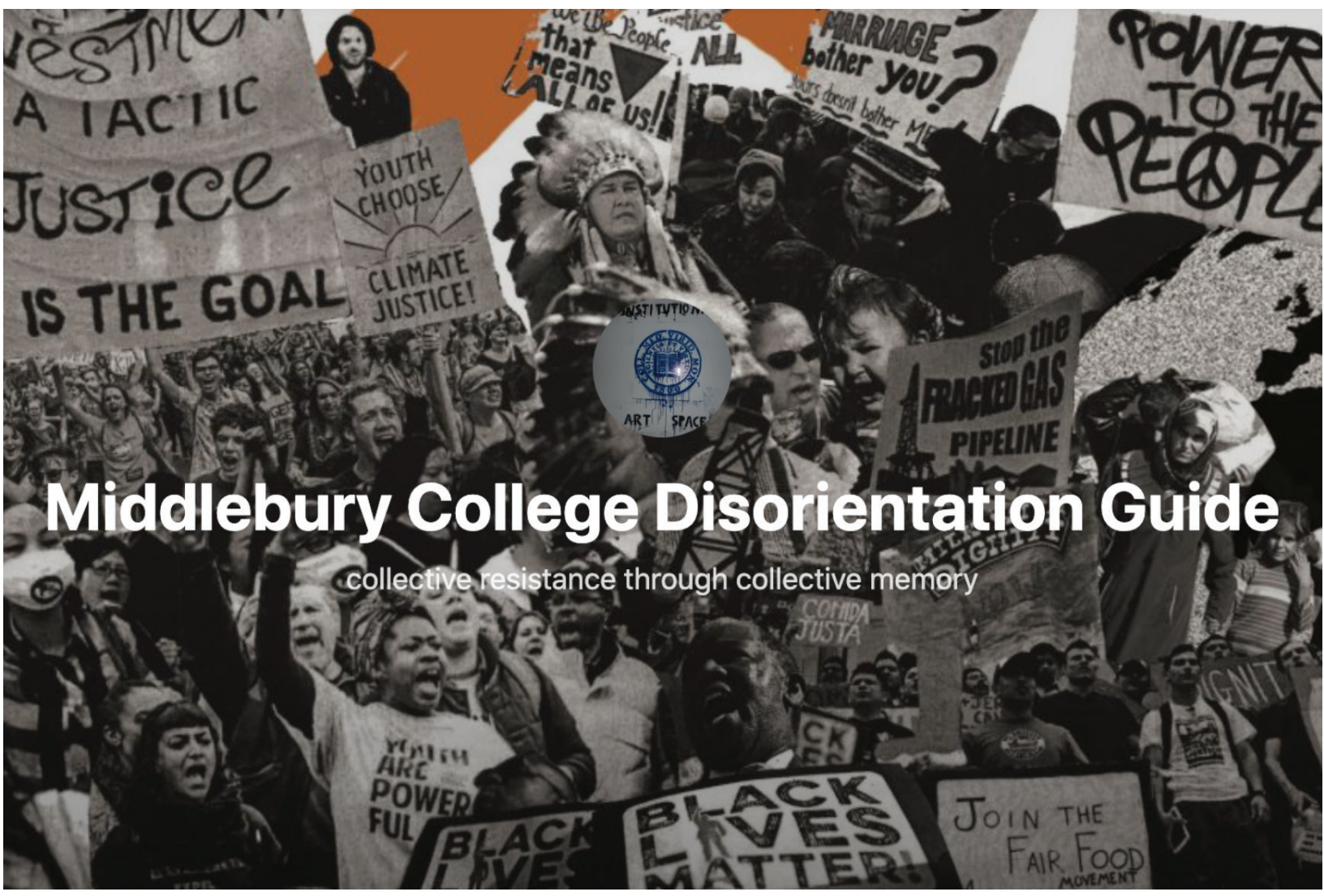
Hannah: In addition to many very exciting moments, my friends abroad have complained of being burnt out from too much travel, having trouble learning to cook for themselves, and finding their programs not as immersive as they would have hoped. It's worth remembering that there will be hardships whether abroad or at Middlebury.

While having a set group of friends to rely on can make Middlebury more fun and less stressful, we encourage underclassmen not to let their friends' plans to go abroad pressure them into going abroad when they wouldn't otherwise. Looking back, all three of us would have made the same decision again. We look forward to having our longtime friends return, but we will carry the above lessons with us for the rest of our time at Middlebury. For one thing, the three of us wouldn't have become good friends were it not for this unusual semester.

Disorient: Learn about the history and resources the college won't teach

Op-Ed

Jake Dreyfous, Lucas Donavan Lafuente, *and* ***Madeline Hiller*** *are members of the class of 2023.*



The website of Middlebury College Disorientation Guide.

COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE DISORIENTATION GUIDE

As graduating seniors, we feel that it is important to acknowledge the institutional history that may be lost when our class leaves Middlebury. How did the college respond to Covid, and how did this (in)action affect our student body? Who is Charles Murray, and why has the college invited him to campus multiple times, despite widespread student retaliation and national news coverage? Is Energy2028 a feasible goal or another instance of institutional greenwashing? Where can we access resources created by students to ensure our academic, social and financial success at Middlebury?

> Who is Charles Murray, and why has the college invited him to campus multiple times, despite widespread student retaliation and national news coverage?

Answers to all these questions and more can be found on Disorient. This student-led resource keeps our collective memory of resistance at the college alive. Inspired by similar initiatives at other schools, Disorient is a working document written by students committed to organizing, educating, learning and building a transformative community. Written without fear of public retaliation or perception, Disorient complicates what the college often makes out to be a straightforward, controversy-free history. It shares the stories of past organizational efforts, current student advocacy campaigns and institutional resources. For years, Disorient has provided students with an alternative narrative to Middlebury's history. The website gives students a critical, eye-opening perspective which enables individuals to see beyond the progressive, problem-free ideals that are often pushed by the College.

When Covid disrupted the Middlebury community, Disorient laid dormant, as many of its collaborators moved on from Middlebury or became overwhelmed in a sea of newfound responsibilities. In light of its disappearance, we — a class of mostly graduating seniors, led by previous Disorient stewards — are reviving Disorient to ensure that the next generation of Middlebury students understands the college's complicated history, as well as past advocacy campaigns to tackle it.

As graduating seniors, many of us had never heard about Disorient, but the information and resources available on the guide left our class excited to ensure future students' access to and knowledge of this website. As it stands, Disorient is an incredibly informative resource for all students, faculty, or staff interested in activism and alternative ways of thinking about Middlebury. However, access necessitates knowing about its existence.

> Disorient is an incredibly informative resource for all students, faculty or staff interested in activism and alternative ways of thinking about Middlebury.

Updating and revitalizing Disorient provides us with an opportunity to collaboratively recognize the importance of Middlebury in each of our lives. We critique the things we care about; thus, by renovating and increasing access to Disorient, we can continue to build a stronger, more transparent community at all levels of this institution.

It is imperative that we, the student community, continue to promote, update and engage our peers with the Middlebury College Disorientation Guide. Only by critically examining the college's history can we promote collaboration and encourage alternative epistemologies at Middlebury.

Aimed at both incoming and current students, the timeline seeks to educate people on what actually happened rather than learning about it through word of mouth. A key part of a liberal arts education is developing our critical thinking, and one can't do that without truly knowing the history of the institution which is teaching it.

Before leaving Middlebury for the summer and beyond, we encourage you to Disorient yourself. Learn non-conventional ways to save money in and around Middlebury. Access a list of progressive, equitable teachers who want to see you succeed regardless of gender, class, race or creed. Complicate your inner narrative of this school. Disorient is for YOU. Use it.

For anyone interested in joining the Disorient team, or just learning more about it, email disorientmidd@gmail.com. To check out the ever-evolving website, visit go/disorient.

Narrative Journalism Fellows present Middlebury's untold stories

By AGNES ROCHE
Contributing Writer

Middlebury's 2022-2023 Narrative Journalism Fellowship (NJF) hosted a gallery-style listening event open to the Middlebury community in Axinn on May 4. The four Middlebury student fellows — William Reed '23.5, Mira Irfan '23.5, Kate Sadoff '23.5 and Katherine Michaelson '25 — conducted interviews with three to four Middlebury students each to produce short podcast profiles answering the project's central question, "How did you get here?" Guided by English Department Scholar-in-Residence Sue Halpern, the fellows produced 14 final pieces in collaboration with Middlebury Magazine to capture a snapshot of the Middlebury student body.

This year's question has been the central focus of the NJF podcast since the fellowship's creation 11 years ago. When discussing the early ideas behind the project, Halpern was struck by the diversity of backgrounds amongst students who were interviewed. "I mean you have one student from Jordan, another from Texas, and so on," Halpern said.

Halpern also noted that the diversity of thought and origin that she perceived at an event on campus was in stark contrast to the stereotype — or perhaps misconception, as the NJF podcasts reveal — that Middlebury's community is homogenous. NJF projects aim to highlight the diversity of experience that exists on campus and reveal stories, complexities and backgrounds that can only be uncovered by asking questions of Middlebury students. Halpern described how this experience provided the fellows with insight into journalism and experience in the field.

"It's so great to work with these students because their skills [in interviewing, editing, and podcast composition] improve so much throughout the fellowship," Halpern noted.

Rowan Heffelfinger '24, one of the interviewees, told Sadoff part of her life story for the project. "I spoke a lot about my childhood growing up overseas," Heffelfinger said. "How I got here, to Middlebury, wasn't really a straight line at all. It was cool to tell that story to someone, to talk about things other than 'why did you live there?' — what I usually get asked."

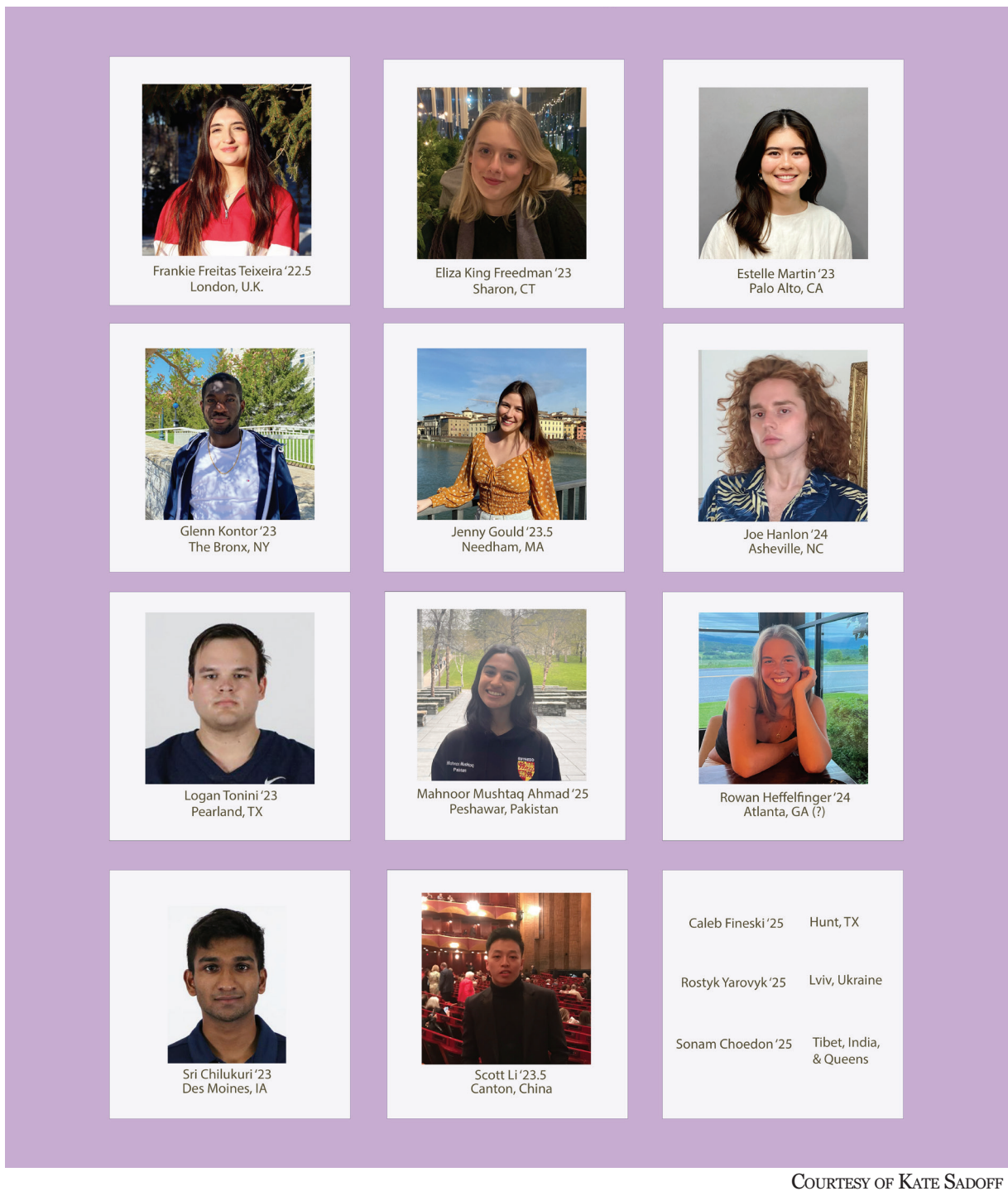
Michaelson had no prior experience in journalism but described the experience as "great," particularly for the skills she gained in audio editing and interview techniques. She expressed excitement about telling peoples' stories who would not get that opportunity otherwise.

Reed, who created four pieces this year, noted a similar appreciation for the personal narratives shared through podcasting. "I think hearing stories about our peers, and honestly just listening to stories in general, is such an important way to engage with one another as members of a community and in life generally. We don't always get the opportunity to do so, so NJF is a cool way to facilitate that type of engagement," Reed said.

At its core, NJF is an audio journalism fellowship aimed at exposing students to the world of audio storytelling and investigation. But the lessons learned by these fellows and those who listen to their work go beyond the technical skills of journalism.

Irfan and Sadoff were both struck by the diversity and depth of experience of the students on campus. "There is so much beneath the surface that you don't get or wouldn't even expect when you pass someone on campus," Sadoff said.

Cameron Truman-Wyss '23.5 attended the listening event because it gave students the opportunity to learn more about their peers' lives before Middlebury. "I knew that Middlebury had crazy, talented, and interesting people, but you don't really hear about that. You just talk to them at face value," Truman-Wyss said.



Courtesy of Kate Sadoff

NJF Poster showcases each interviewee.

While they are far from an exhaustive representation of all that the Middlebury community has to offer, these podcasts do more than just recount the biographies of individual students. NJF gives time to appreciate the depth and breadth of lived experiences that make up the college experience, and the final pieces push listeners to think more critically about the ways in which they know, understand and relate to one another on campus.

This year's NJF podcasts and its archive can be found on the Middlebury Magazine website.

Editor's note: William Reed '23.5 and Kate Sadoff '23.5 are layout editors for The Campus.

NOCTURNE 2023: YOU ARE AN ARTIST

By EMILY THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Every Nocturne, the combination of glorious spring weather, good music, interactive art projects and the buzz of students all over campus creates an atmosphere ripe with possibility. "Something that this experience has taught me is even within the organizers, we all approach art and imagine it in different ways..." said President of Nocturne Patricia Hughes '24. "There [are] so many... aspects of [Nocturne projects]... that are incredible in their own ways because it's not only a demonstration of student artistic abilities, but it's also how different we all are that is beautiful."

However, Nocturne wasn't all smooth sailing this year. Due to forecasted rain on the original event date, April 29, Nocturne leadership and advisors from within the college opted to postpone the annual arts festival a week later to May 6. Fortunately, the early May showers cleared up by the rescheduled Saturday date, and students began circulating about campus. Starting at 7:00 p.m., Middlebury transformed into a collage of exhibits and performances ranging from the profound to the absurd.

One piece that combined absurdity and depth was performed by Chad Kim '23.5, who donned a ghillie suit and rolled for an hour across the center of Middlebury's campus, from Davis Family Library to the chapel. "I feel very calm right now," he said upon the completion of his odyssey. "I didn't have any of my own issues, I was just a bush, and that's all that really mattered in the moment...[I wanted to] ride that gray area, the boundaries between being a human and... experiencing life as a non-human entity. What if I wasn't at Middlebury and I didn't have all of the complications of my life that I do now? Bushing really liberated me from those acerbic, human feelings," Kim reflected.

Throughout the rest of campus, students read displayed poetry, participated in interactive painting exhibits and had their fortunes told, while musicians and singers played from every niche on campus, creating a soundtrack for the evening. Marina Prikis' '25 smokey vocals spilled down the hill from the Gampitheater. The band Chapel Hill had their debut performance of the song "Milk," which ended in the group's singers drinking and wearing milk products. Another band, Polyecstasy, rocked to a cover of Scooby-Doo. And then there was "Scrapefruit The Musical: The Scroperatic: The Revenge of the Proleterrorrat: A Punk Opera" by Scrapefruit.

"Scrapefruit: The Musical" tells the story of city and country rats who unite to overthrow the exploitative Bat King and end his blood-sucking regime. "'Scrapefruit: The Musical' aims to cultivate class consciousness in the viewer," Asa Skinder '23, the band's bassist explained. Skinder added that the band's musical aesthetics fell between "avant-garde punk" and "scrapcore."

Scrapefruit (the band) spent weeks writing and practicing their musical, as well as designing and constructing larger-than-life paper mâché puppets. The band members initially did not realize how much work they had committed to by planning to write and performing a musical, and they did not end up having time to practice a full run-through before the performance. Yet the show was a clear hit, bringing the audience members to their feet to bounce, stomp and dance passionately throughout the spectacle.

Nocturne was a magical, spell-casting moment for performers and audience members alike. No matter what was happening on personal, communal or political levels, for an evening students were able to escape and transcend the acute stresses of college life, elevating everyone into their own artistic realms.

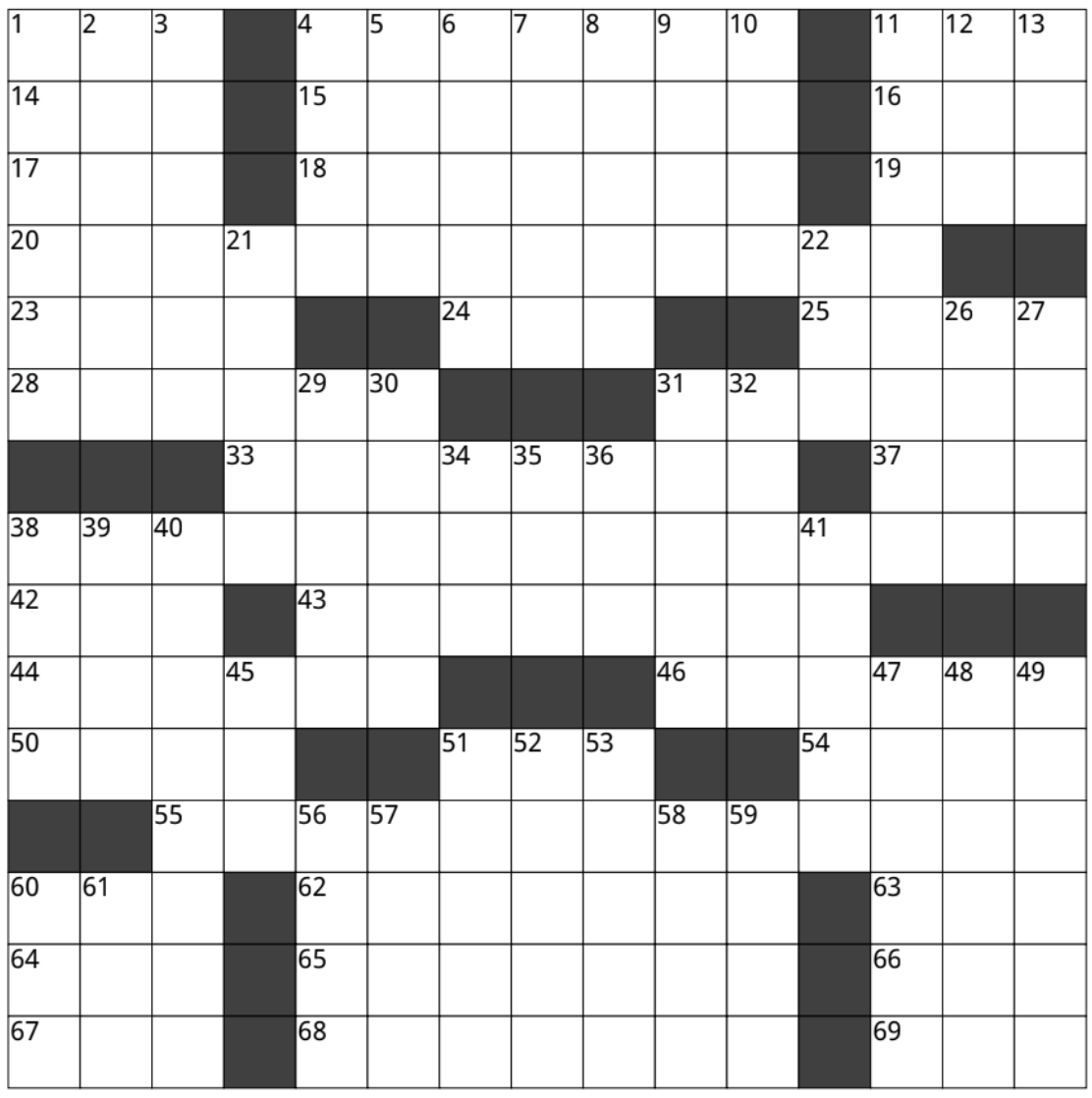
"We think of an artist as... a specific type of person. You are an artist or you are not. And something that is so special about Nocturne is that it shows people that we're all artists. We all have this innate human quality," Hughes said.

Courtesy of Nocturne

"Sweater Tree" (top) and "Ed Sheeran" (bottom) performing outside of Munroe Hall.

CROSSWORD FOR YOU!!!

By JOSH HARKINS
Puzzle Master



Across

1 PD alert
4 On the market
11 Inflate, as numbers
14 Fish eggs
15 Formerly fourth largest lake, soon to be finished
16 Bird with giant eggs
17 Spa option
18 Nixon, Johnson, or Obama, before the presidency
19 Poke fun at
20 With 38-Across, statement said when one accepts that even the best of times don't last forever. We love you seniors!
23 Letter opener
24 Honey producer
25 Car
28 Banking smartphone download
31 Key of Holst's "The Cotswolds" symphony
33 Informal name for the "Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018" or "Agricultural Act of 2014"
37 Common last name for Jane and John
38 See 20-Across
42 Tolkien monster
43 Sudeikis soccer series finishing this year after three seasons
44 Chinese variety of Marxism-Leninism
46 Life could be a dream if you listened to this 1954 hit by The Chords
50 Camera opts.
51 Bay area airport, abbr.
54 Sicily volcano
55 Formal address that finished being used on January 3, 2023 (although its successor address wasn't certain until January 7)
60 Honest politician
62 Secretary of State Antony
63 Words preceding "veys"
64 See 49-Down
65 Losing hair
66 Wireless inits.
67 Who wrote on a Raven and a writing desk?
68 First aid equipment
69 Slippery fish

Down

1 Massive naval force
2 French chicken
3 Mayhem
4 Burkina ____
5 Cookies and cream treat
6 Grammy category
7 Rock formed when shale experiences high pressure and temperature
8 "____ crow flies"
9 Canonized 5th century pope
10 Bring home
11 Convince
12 French friend
13 Victory, in modern slang
21 Surgery procedure
22 Cry of frustration
26 Movie character who fights for the Users
27 Newspaper page
29 Treaties
30 Introduction
31 Important tool for dental care
32 Make big cuts
34 L squared
35 ____ canto
36 Call ____ day
38 People we should call this Sunday!
39 ____ Mountains, range that finishes in Kazakhstan (or Russia, depending on where you start)
40 Director Martin whose movies eventually conclude (but often go for a looooong time)
41 Dynamite inventor Alfred
45 Verizon or AOL, e.g.
47 "Lawrence of Arabia" portrayer Peter
48 Not remote
49 With 64-Across, Marvelous character not returning for a sixth season
51 Talent
52 Gucci rival
53 Pest control company
56 Flows counterpart
57 "Take ____!" (coach's order)
58 Cooped (up)
59 Many M.I.T. grads
60 Hype (up)
61 Word with "lax" or "finance"

FROM THE ARCHIVES: MIDDLEBURY THROUGH THE HEADLINES

By ABIGAIL CHANG
Editor in Chief

"From the Archives" is an opportunity for various writers to visit the Middlebury Special Collections and write about a different artifact each week. The Special Collections boasts hundreds of thousands of historic items, and through this column we encourage writers to explore not only the college's history, but also the history of the world around us.

"Largest class yet to graduate," proclaims a headline in a final spring issue of The Campus, referring to the class of '23. But of course, this is not about the class of 2023, which includes around 420 May graduates, down from the typical 630. This headline is from issue No. 31 of the 19th volume of The Campus, published on June 18, 1923.

A lot has changed since this graduation 100 years ago. For one thing, Middlebury's student body has expanded. The "largest class in the history of the College," as the article describes it, was just 104 students — 38 men and 66 women. An article in the first fall issue of the same year cites a total enrollment of 519, smaller than the average reg class size these days.

The pages of The Campus, too, have changed greatly over the last century. Middlebury Special Collections is home to a full run of the college's student-run newspaper, with issues from its previous iteration — The Undergraduate, founded in 1830 — to the paper this article appears in. Browsing the leather-bound volumes of print editions from years past reveals that much of the paper's coverage during this period revolved around sports. And there were many, many more ads — sometimes multiple pages worth — revealing what items or activities were of interest to college students of the day.

The Campus of a century ago published ads for cigarettes and alcohol (something that is now prohibited due to the college's federal funding), Kodak film development, shoestrings, overcoats and "a good haircut and shave" at Gib's the Barber on Merchants Row. One person who appears to be a student, Edith H. Tallmadge, placed a personal ad that ran for several weeks in a row, announcing a "party forming to visit France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, England, with Ireland optional." Tallmadge instructed those interested to "write for cost and itinerary."

Middlebury Campus

Member Eastern Intercollegiate Newspaper Association

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, MIDDLEBURY, VT., JUNE 18, 1923

LARGEST CLASS YET TO GRADUATE RECEIVES DIPLOMAS THIS MORNING

38 Men and 66 Women Graduated in Impressive Exercises at Congregational Church

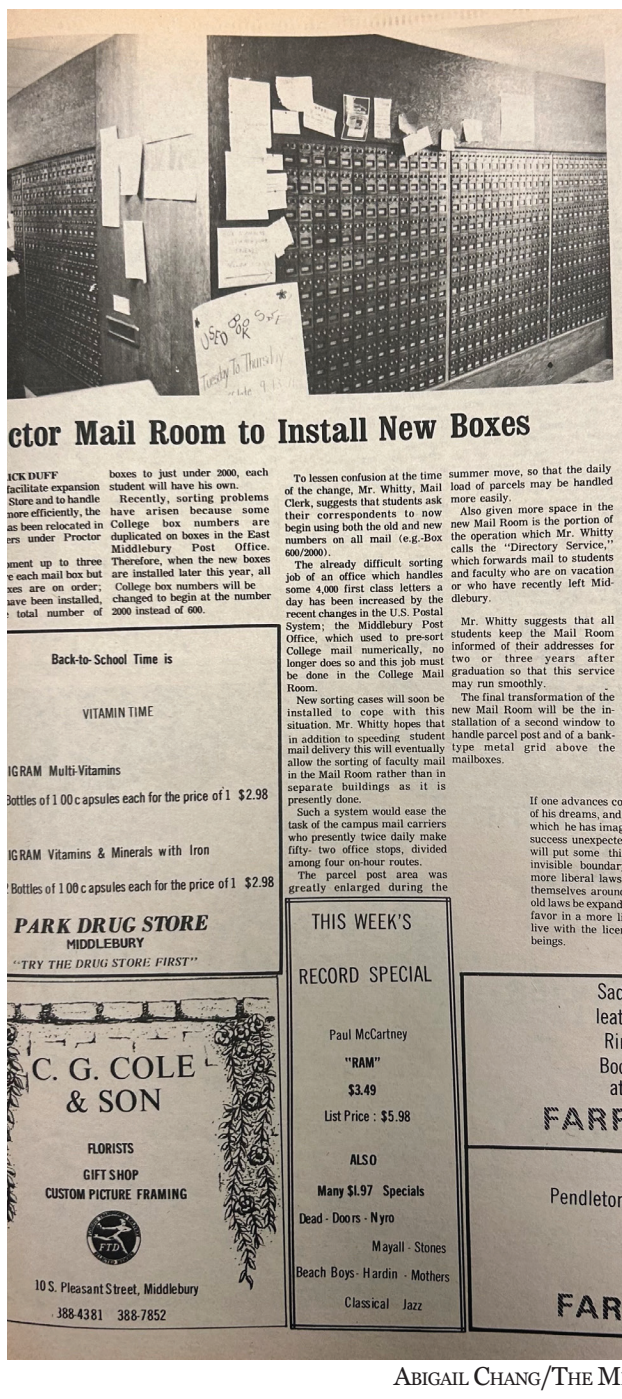
TEN RECEIVE DEGREE MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Dr. Henry H. Tweedy of Yale Gives Address—Five Honorary Degrees Conferred

HENRY HALLAM TWEEDY
Yale Divinity School Professor, Who Delivered The Commencement Address This Morning

PRESIDENT MOODY DELIVERS INSPIRING BACCALAUREATE SERMON TO GRADUATES

No Duty Humdrum, No Drudgery Meaningless, He Says, If Glorified by A Vision of The King In His Beauty



ctor Mail Room to Install New Boxes

flunk outs, drop outs

Fast forward 50 years, and The Campus of the 70s was publishing coverage more similar to that of today — though, admittedly, the paper was embracing a magazine-esque style. One front page was composed of a full-page cartoon of a man smoking a cigar and sitting in a car. A 1972 issue devoted an entire two-page spread to a four panel comic under the text, "Meet Mr. Wizard."

Gone were the front pages full of sports updates and event announcements of the 1920s. They were replaced by an analysis of Vermont taxes, coverage of a student forum passing a credit/no credit proposal and a story on the Community Council calling for co-ed frats. An April 27, 1972 issue featured a photograph of a student bearing a "recycle Nixon" sign above a headline that reads "rock 'n roll."

Some of the institutions and interests of this time have remained, though perhaps with increased prices, modern technology or the benefit of new scientific insight. An ad for Mister Up's promotes Beefeater Gin martinis for 75 cents, while one for The Vermont Book Shop advertises books, tapes and records. Students often wrote about environmental concerns: An op-ed under the eye-catching headline "Make Your Car Eat Shit!" advocated for manure-based fuel amid concerns about air pollution from transportation.

Campus reporters of 50 years ago were amusingly matter-of-fact when writing about their peers. One 1972 issue contained an article on all the students who had left the college after the end of the preceding year, all under the headline "flunk outs, drop outs." "One hundred sixty-six students took leaves of absence, seven transferred to other colleges, and twenty-four flunked out," the writer said.

Another student wrote a mixed review of a 1972 production of Hamlet (which also happened to be the faculty show this spring). "John Martinuzzi was adequate as Laertes," the reporter wrote. "It did seem, however, that the goodbye scene between he and Ophelia was somewhat mushy and overdone."

As members of the current class of '23 face the uncertainties of post-undergraduate life, now just a few weeks away, they might find comfort in the fact that apprehension about life after graduation is as much a constant at Middlebury as environmental activism, productions of Hamlet and trips to Mister Up's.

Students of 50 years ago were apparently feeling similarly daunted by the prospect of graduating. In a fall 1972 issue of The Campus, a member of the class of 1973 penned an op-ed creatively titled "Thoughts on being a senior." While the "ardent competitiveness" exhibited by underclassmen had faded from the ranks of that year's graduating class, the seniors had a new reason for uneasiness, the writer explained.

"Now a fresh form of fear has developed: the fear of Out There," the writer said. "For the first time in their lives many people are going to have to make some choices."

The front page of The Campus 100 years ago (left) and a page from a 1970s issue of the paper (right).

Abigail Chang/The Middlebury Campus

REEL CRITIC: THE GRADUATE

By ELIZA KING FREEDMAN
Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Courtesy Photos

Stills from "The Graduate."

"The Graduate" is my favorite movie. I begin with this disclaimer because though it is understandably controversial in and out of the world of film majors, I am incredibly biased in my commitment to loving it. I must also emphasize that I am not a film major. And despite my being raised in a household of movie lovers, I only consider myself qualified to write this review as a soon-to-be graduate, not as someone that has any interest in arguing with you over why you don't think that the underwater birthday party scene is the most emotional thing ever to grace the silver screen.

The graduate in question is Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman), who returns home for the summer after graduating from a prestigious college with no plans for his future and without any external forces encouraging him to make any life-altering decisions, except for his parents. He was clearly a high-performer during his time in undergrad, but the minute he steps into the real world, none of it matters (the opportunity to draw parallels between your post-grad fears and Braddock's assumed reality begins here). And if you can suspend your disbelief like I have and relate to someone who truly has no worries in the world besides whether he should go to grad school or continue to loaf about his Los Angeles home, perhaps you too will relish in the search for fulfillment upon which Braddock embarks.

At Braddock's graduation party, thrown for him by his parents and attended by no one his own age, the titular character is asked to drive Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft) home. Upon arrival at her large and empty house, Mrs. Robinson encourages Braddock to come inside, declaring, possibly feigning, fear of an intruder. Once inside, she makes a pass at Braddock (she takes all of her clothes off and locks herself in a room alone with him), only to be interrupted by the sound of her husband's car pulling into the driveway.

Obviously, a weeks-long affair then ensues between Braddock and Mrs. Robinson, communicated by another cinematographic masterpiece montage of each of them walking in and out of the same hotel room, with each picture fading into the next as a marker of time passing. We are brought back to reality with another magnificent pool scene wherein the camera zooms out from Braddock's sunglass lenses to show his parents pestering him, asking what he's going to do with his life. The conversation ends with a clear conclusion: he must take Elaine Robinson (Katharine Ross), Mrs. Robinson's daughter and the singular person that Braddock has sworn to his secret hotel companion that he will stay away from, on a date.

The date in question, on which Braddock tries to act disinterested but is ultimately smitten, becomes the turning point of the film. And though I refuse to spoil the rest, I would like to point you to the rain scene in the car and the silent screaming scene in the chapel as highlights from director and 1968 Oscar winner Mike Nichols. The intimate perspectives of the camera paired with the adapted Simon and Garfunkel soundtrack make for a pensive viewing experience, one that has evolved for me as I have gotten older — thus prompting my desire to write this article.

When I first saw "The Graduate," I blamed Mrs. Robinson, for lying about her fear of an intruder and for ruining the love story that I adored between Elaine and Braddock. I also judged Braddock for his inability to appreciate what he had and his refusal to make decisions more confidently. But now, I believe Mrs. Robinson when she says that she is afraid of an intruder, or at least of entering her home and finding it empty. I empathize with Braddock, too, and the halting feeling that life is like a game of Red Light, Green Light, wherein any move you make could send you back to the start.

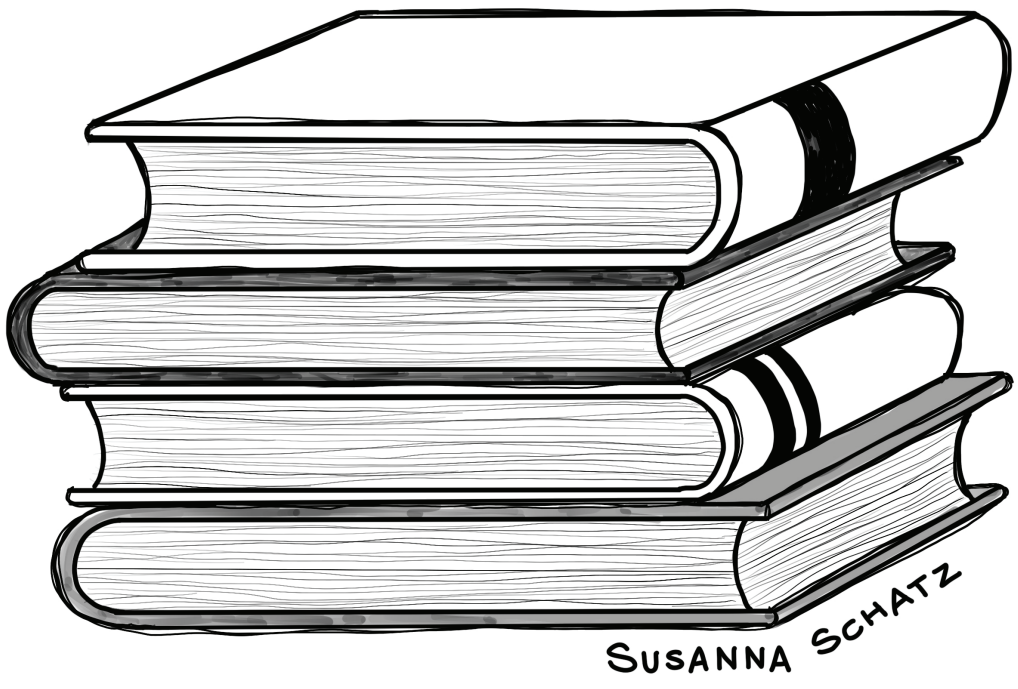
What got me, as I watched this movie for the final time with my housemate before becoming just old enough to relate to the graduate himself, is the thrill in the decision that brings the story to an end. Though again, I refuse to spoil it, "The Graduate" ends with a shot of Braddock's smile fading after he has made an exhilarating move. We are left to wonder whether he is regretting it, whether it was everything he hoped for, or if he is just young and it was exciting to do something a little ridiculous.

At the start of the film during Braddock's graduation party, the only reason that Mrs. Robinson can even find Ben to ask him to drive her home and begin the romantic saga that is the film's plot is because he has slipped away from the party in protest of the discussion of his future. A Braddock family friend and party-goer finds an overwhelmed Ben, and she asks him what he is going to do next, of course referring to the greater "next" in life. He replies, "I was going to go upstairs for a minute."

So perhaps, my fellow soon-to-be graduates, you will join me in finding comfort in such a quotation. And if anyone asks what's next for you, just tell them you're going to go upstairs. For even a smart-alecky answer like that could lead you somewhere entirely unexpected, and, for better or worse, life is not like a game of Red Light, Green Light — nothing you do will ever send you back to the start.

NICHE READS: BEACH READS

BY SYLVIE SHURE
Opinions Editor



If you struggle to find time for fun reading, this is the spot for you. Niche Reads recommends novels that relate to academic (or other) interests so you can explore a new book while still feeling productive. Check back each week for more cool books.

For many college students, summer is the prime time of year to read for pleasure. In celebration of our upcoming freedom to read, here are a few books that are perfect for lying around on the beach. They are readable, not too heavy and just begging to get some sand between their pages.

"Swimming Studies" by Leanne Shapton

Leanne Shapton's gorgeous memoir "Swimming Studies" is an exploration of her time as a competitive swimmer. This honest, personal account of a lifelong passion is a masterclass of observation. Reading it is almost a meditative experience, with Shapton's soothing prose depicting the strange and beautiful solitude of swimming.

You don't need to be a swimmer, however, to understand the all-consuming love Shapton feels for her sport or the bitter disappointments that go along with such devotion. While this is not a book that will keep you on the edge of your seat, it is a deeply absorbing and human read.

If you are lucky enough to find yourself on a beach this summer, bring "Swimming Studies" along. Its beautiful descriptions, photos and illustrations would be the perfect complement to a day spent oceanside.

You should read this book if you are looking for an introspective read, if you are interested in the limits of human devotion or if you enjoy books that deal with the visual arts.

"If on a Winter's Night a Traveler" by Italo Calvino

If ever a novel has been structurally innovative, it's "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler." This is the story of a reader beginning a book and never being able to finish it. Made up of a string of first chapters connected by the reader's fruitless search for resolution, the novel uses its unique form and second-person narration to explore the purpose of reading itself.

Cheeky, contemplative and at times audacious, this novel is perfect for a fun-filled summer day. The nature of the plot makes it easy to read piece by piece, and the individual chapters are full of suspense, humor and intrigue. This book is probably unlike anything you've read before, and its scattered storylines make for a scintillating reading experience.

You should read this book if you want something that's light without being shallow, if you are interested in the nature of storytelling or if you can never make it past the first chapter of a book.

"A Room with a View" by E.M. Forster

Don't be intimidated by the 1908 publication date; this book is a dreamy little romp through the Italian countryside. Forster's relentless mockery of Edwardian society will leave you laughing throughout, and his beautiful descriptions of scenery are enough to make anyone swoon. The 1985 film adaptation is also great, perfectly capturing the book's whimsy and wit.

When young, beautiful Lucy Honeychurch goes on a trip to Italy for the summer, she finds herself on the verge of scandal. Swept away by the strange and earnest George Emerson, Lucy begins to find the rules of propriety harder and harder to follow. As Lucy struggles to choose between her heart and her head, the reader is transported to a world of beauty, wit and, above all, romance.

You should read this book if you're wanting a funny read, if you love love stories or if you want something light and fluffy.

MIDDLEBURY TENNIS TEAMS ADVANCE IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Courtesy of Ali Paquette

The women's tennis team huddles together before NCAA regionals.

By JACK McGUIRE
Senior Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's and women's tennis teams have continued their years of dominance this past weekend, as they both won their respective NCAA regionals. The women's team won their seventh consecutive regional championship, and the men's team won their eighth straight regional championship.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams have been extremely strong in recent years, and the two teams look to continue their dominance as they advance through the NCAA tournament, which will be played in Orlando, Fla. this year.

The women's team (16–3) dominated in their regional matchups, paving the way for them to play in the NCAA quarterfinals against Johns Hopkins (21–3). In their first game, the team shutout Lebanon Valley College (17–4) 5–0 thanks to contributions from the entire team. Across all of the matches, the women's team only lost two sets. It was a similar story in the regional championship against Skidmore (13–8), as the team cruised to another 5–0 victory. Amy Delman '24 and Gena Huang '24 both recorded their 30th career collegiate victories in the match.

Despite falling short at the NESCAC Championships in a 5–2 loss to Wesleyan (17–1), the women's team has had a season worthy of praise. The team was undefeated at home this year and went 9–1 in conference play. Rankings indicate that the team is capable of winning an NCAA championship — the NCAA ranked them as the second best team in the NESCAC behind Wesleyan, and fourth in the nation.

What is especially impressive is that this year's squad is a particularly young team. The team will only be graduating two seniors this year and has gotten significant contributions from underclassmen like Nathalie van der Reis '25 and Sahana Raman '25. To put this in perspective, Wesleyan, the only team that has beaten Middlebury this year, has four seniors graduating after this season.

Like the women's team, the men's team (17–3) has also had a phenomenal season, and the NCAA also ranks them as the second best team in the country. After winning the NESCAC Championships in a 5–4 win over Bowdoin (15–3), the team won their NCAA regionals tournament with a 5–1 win over Christopher Newport (11–9) and a 5–2 win over Johns Hopkins (19–5).

The rest of the tennis community has also noticed the team's success and overall dominance this season. This past week, Neel Epstein '25, Aidan Harris '24, Noah Laber '24 and Zihao Yuan '24 were all named to the College Sports Communications Academic All-District team.

Unfortunately for the men's tennis team, however, they have a tough matchup in the NCAA quarterfinals this weekend against Bowdoin. Bowdoin is one of three teams that have beaten the Panthers this year, besting them 5–4 in April. Bowdoin also played tough against Middlebury in the NESCAC Championship matchup, but Middlebury came out on top, winning 5–4. Middlebury will have to play hard to win in the third matchup of the season against their rival Bowdoin to continue their quest to defend their NESCAC Championship from last season.

PFL Weekly

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Podcast Hosts

This week, all three men's tennis senior captains — Aidan Harris '24, Andrew Mueller '23.5 and Robby Ward '23.5 — join the PFL crew in the studio. Prior to winning the NCAA regional tournament at John Hopkins, men's tennis retained its title as NESCAC champions, which it has held since 2019. The captains share their insights on building a championship-caliber team, highlights from a recent team trip to Guatemala and their upcoming journey to Orlando for the final rounds of the NCAA tournament.

Listen to PFL Weekly on Spotify

Men's lacrosse falls short in NESCAC championship, but qualifies for NCAA Tournament

By GAVIN THOMSEN
Contributing Writer

This weekend, the Middlebury men's lacrosse team (16–2) looked to cap off a highly successful regular season with a NESCAC title. After a thrilling overtime win over Hamilton (14-13) last weekend in the opening round, the Panthers looked to continue their playoff success on Bello Field in Medford, Mass., against Williams.

On Saturday, Middlebury defeated Williams (10–7) by a score of 13–7 to advance to the NESCAC finals. William Ryan '23, Cooper DeMallie '26 and Jake Peluso '24, who had three goals, two goals and one assist, and one goal and two assists, respectively, paced Middlebury's offensive efforts. Nate Ruoss '25 and Luke Simpson '23.5 each had two caused turnovers, leading a defensive effort that held Williams scoreless for the entire second half.

The following day, in the NESCAC finals, the Panthers squared off with Tufts (18–0), who is ranked first in the nation according to Nike/USA Lacrosse. Prior to this matchup, Middlebury's only loss of the season had come against Tufts at the beginning of April, falling 19–15 in a game where they began to trail majorly early on.

Sunday's outing followed a similar pattern. Tufts started the game with a run of 10 unanswered goals through the first 20 minutes of play and had built up a 16–1 lead by the halfway mark of the third quarter. The Panthers clawed their way back, but their efforts were too little and too late, as the game ended with a score of 19–6.

Courtesy of Will Costello

Jake Peluso '24 celebrates scoring a goal.

Russell Thorndike '25 and Billy Curtis '25 each had two points on the afternoon, while Patrick Jamin '25, Tyler Forbes '23, William Ryan '23, Logan White '26 and Jack Sheehan '23 each chipped in a goal.

As the season winds down, Garrett Hawthorne '25 said the group hopes to savor and prioritize the team unity that they've developed throughout the year.

"As a team we are really focusing on staying in the present and making every second count, not taking for granted the extra time we have to spend together," Hawthorne said.

Regardless of Sunday's loss, Middlebury's impressive 2023 campaign earned them an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. The Panthers will travel to Schenectady, N.Y., this Saturday to play the winner of St. Mary's (Md.) (14–5) vs. Merchant Marine (10–6). If they prevail in that match up, they will face the winner of Union (N.Y.) (11–6) vs. Western New England (12–8) on Sunday.

Seven Questions with Jessica Warren '25, Women's Track and Field

By OWEN PARK
Sports Editor

Courtesy of Jessica Warren
Jessica Warren '25 flies through the air during the 2022 NESCAC Championships at Hamilton College.

Jessica Warren '25, from Walnut Creek, Calif. is competing in her second year on the women's track and field team as a pole vaulter. In this installment of Seven Questions, Warren discusses her journey to collegiate athletics, how to have a good sleep schedule and her hopes for the future of the team.

Owen Park: How did you first become involved in pole vaulting?

Jessica Warren: When I was younger, I used to watch my brother's high school football games, and there would always be pole vaulters competing behind the bleachers. It is kind of embarrassing, but I always ended up watching the pole vaulters instead of the game. Pole vaulting was not always my main sport. I did gymnastics for 10 years and played club volleyball up until my first year of high school. By that point, I was really sick of volleyball, and I told my mom that I was interested in pole vaulting. She put me in touch with one of her friends who happened to be a pole vault coach at a nearby high school, and I began competing during my freshman year.

OP: Did you always know that you wanted to pole vault in college?

JW: Mostly. Pole vaulters in high school are made very aware of the heights they have to clear in order to get noticed by colleges. As such, I knew I could compete at the collegiate level since my sophomore year, I vaulted 10 ft — approximately the height that colleges will seriously consider recruiting you. Even though I had started relatively recently, I really liked the sport, and it was the first time that I had a coach that supported me.

OP: What made you decide to compete at Middlebury?

JW: I first heard about Middlebury through Joel Kofman '24 who is a pole vaulter on the men's track and field team. Both of us pole vaulted in the same high school district, and he suggested that I compete at Middlebury. I knew that I wanted to go to school far away from the West Coast but never really considered moving to New England. It was not until I started actively looking into Middlebury that I realized coming here would allow me to pursue my academic passions while competing at a high level. Talking to now-former Middlebury pole vaulters about their experiences also drew me here. One aspect of pole vaulting in high school that I really disliked was the dynamic between us pole vaulters and the rest of the track team. Other athletes did not really know we existed, which was frustrating at times. During the recruiting process, I was fortunate enough to be able to talk to a senior pole vaulter who told me about the amazing community dynamics that track athletes have with one another at Middlebury.

OP: Now that you are here, how easy has it been to balance academics and athletics?

JW: Really easy. I tend to spend my time doing either athletics or school, but that is because I like to prioritize my sleep. I like to get at least eight hours, sometimes nine, per night, and I will stop work at 9 p.m. to watch some TV. People are always confused about how I am able to get so much sleep while being on a team when in reality it helps me organize my time. Being a pole vaulter also helps with time management because we only practice three days a week. Both of these factors allow me to plan my days out, so I know when I need to focus on my work, when I have to finish things by and when I have time to myself. On the days I do not have practice, I will finish any outstanding assignments or do something relaxing like stretching or going for a swim. Pole vaulting is mentally exhausting, so it is important to make the most out of your time off.

OP: What would you say has been your biggest challenge competing at Middlebury?

JW: Injuries. Pole vaulting is really hard on the body. My friends always remind me how I used to be afraid of walking up and down the BiHall stairs because I was scared my knees would give out. There is never enough time between our fall and spring seasons to fully recover, so any injuries I have carry over. I also have tendonitis in both of my knees which I have had to get cupped and needled for. Needling is not very pleasant. It is essentially sticking metal needles into tense parts of your muscles to help them relax. I am used to it by now, but I have been called a cat in the trainer's room because it sounds like I am yowling every time I get needled.

OP: What would you say has been your biggest athletic success at Middlebury?

JW: Improving my jumping form. I have not broken my personal record since coming here, but my mechanics have gotten significantly better. Coming in freshman year, there was a lot that I had to fix in order to remain competitive. Looking back, I can confidently say that I have come a long way since then. Other than that, learning more about my injuries and how to bounce back from them has been a massive achievement. Understanding how I can improve in all facets of my game is something that I really value.

OP: What are some of your hopes and dreams for the future?

JW: I would like to get my personal record again, but that is not the most important thing for me at the moment. Right now, I am focused on finding ways to get myself in a better mental state during meets so I can be at my best. I will not be competing as much next year since I am studying abroad in the spring, but when I come back, I would like to be more involved in helping to shape the program. I feel at home now that there are more girls on the team, and I have gotten to know my teammates better. Having a supportive team culture and helping to keep everyone moving forward would make for an amazing senior year.